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Patchwork at the Polls



Kroepsch-Maurice winner Alec Ewald, expert in voting rights and constitutional law, on teaching: "I talk about looking for echoes, connections to historical material that in some stimulating way enrich your experience of the present." Class work, Ewald insists, "should improve our ability to think and feel and care about the questions that are most interesting and mysterious in our lives." (Photo: Sally McCay)

Voting — as we envision it — is a national, Constitution-based right. But that's not how it's exercised. In his forthcoming book, *The Way We Vote: The Local Dimension of American Suffrage*, Alec Ewald, assistant professor of political science and passionate proponent of participatory democracy, writes, "...in some ways the Constitution means what your county elections board says it does."

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INTERview: Gro Harlem Brundtland

In 1981, at age forty-one, Gro Harlem Brundtland, a physician and mother of four, took on a new job: prime minister of Norway. She was the youngest person and the first woman to ever hold that post. She will deliver the 2008 Aiken Lecture Wednesday, Oct. 15. at 6 p.m. in Ira Allen Chapel. *the view* spoke with Brundtland on Oct. 6 to find out more about her perspective on climate change and global politics in a post-Bush world.

Rural Studies: 30

Years Later The number of expressions of gratitude toward Fred Schmidt at the 30th Anniversary Symposium for the Center for Rural Studies were as plentiful as the issues facing rural Vermonters that dominated the event. One of those issues, a lack of broadband connectivity in rural areas, highlighted the changes facing small town America and the evolving issues the center has dealt with since Schmidt founded it in September of 1978.

THE WEEK IN VIEW

Oct. 10. 7:30 p.m. Lane Series Concert: Alexander Ghindin, piano. \$25 adult, \$20 student. UVM Recital Hall. [Information](#), [tickets](#).

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

Oct. 14. 6 p.m. Community Medical School: "Heart Failure: When Your Hardest Working Muscle Quits." Martin LeWinter, professor of medicine and molecular physiology and biophysics. Carpenter Auditorium, Given Building. [Information](#), [registration](#): (802) 847-2886.

Oct. 15. Noon. Social Justice Film Series: *Black Gold: A Film about Coffee and Trade*. 104 Allen House. Film will also be screened at 7:30 p.m. in 216 Living/Learning Commons. Information: wrodrigu@uvm.edu.

Oct. 15. 12:15 p.m. Area and International Studies Lecture: "Mediating the 'Voice of the Spirit': Gospel Music, 'Fast Capitalism' and the (Re)Production of Yoruba Christian Modernity." Vicki Brennan, assistant professor of religion. John Dewey Lounge, Old Mill. Information: 656-1096.

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Patchwork at the Polls

The way we vote is about as homogenous as the electorate itself. Is it fair? New book makes a case for celebrating — sort of — the diversity in American democracy

By Lee Ann Cox

Article published October 8, 2008



Kroepsch-Maurice winner Alec Ewald, expert in voting rights and constitutional law, on teaching: "I talk about looking for echoes, connections to historical material that in some stimulating way enrich your experience of the present." Class work, Ewald insists, "should improve our ability to think and feel and care about the questions that are most interesting and mysterious in our lives." (Photo: Sally McCay)

have made their picks as absentees weeks ahead, many, like everyone in Oregon, mailing them in. These contrasts barely touch on the inconsistencies in how elections are run from towns to cities, parishes to counties, across the country.

Voting — as we envision it — is a national, Constitution-based right. But that's not how it's exercised. In his forthcoming book, *The Way We Vote: The Local Dimension of American Suffrage*, Alec Ewald, assistant professor of political science and passionate proponent of participatory democracy, writes, "...in some ways the Constitution means what your county elections board says it does."

So local control — from voter registration, ballot design and technology, distribution of voting machines, how votes are counted (and recounted), even *who* is allowed to vote — is inherent to our system. That's always been true.

"Pick your favorite American election," says Ewald. "1980. 1960. 1800. 1860. Jackson! Whatever election you think made an

On Nov. 4, a voter in Charlotte, Vt., will stand in line, children in tow, chatting with his neighbors outside the school gym while waiting to be given a paper ballot and a black Sharpie. In Pittsburgh, a voter will use controversial touch-screen technology. Nationwide, a predicted one in three voters may

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[Rural Studies: 30 Years Later](#)

The number of expressions of gratitude toward Fred Schmidt at the 30th Anniversary Symposium for the Center for Rural Studies were as plentiful as the issues facing rural Vermonters that dominated the event. One of those issues, a lack of broadband connectivity in rural areas, highlighted the changes facing small town America and the evolving issues the center has dealt with since Schmidt founded it in September of 1978.

important difference in this country's history, you will find a level of variation in the way people voted that absolutely dwarfs anything we see today, especially if you go back to the 19th century."

Yet only since the debacle of 2000 have we seen the dramatic effect it can have on outcomes. There was attempt at reform, with modest results, when Congress passed the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA), before which even statewide voter rolls were nonexistent. "Are we going to condemn every election held before that time because information wasn't centralized?" asks Ewald. "Of course not. And at the same time we should be critical."

Ballot boxing

Ewald's book uses historical, legal, and theoretical analysis to critique the role of local control in voting, ultimately making a cautious case that it serves democracy. "I'm not," he says, "defending localism with all its warts and ugliness and incompetency and instances of outright fraud, but I do believe it has some powerfully redemptive characteristics."

It also has problems. One area that concerns Ewald deeply because it encompasses fundamental voter eligibility is felony disenfranchisement, an issue on which he has broad expertise. As he writes in his book, "The practice of voter disqualification and restoration effectively varies by locality, and rests ultimately on the competence and knowledge of local officials," which, based on Ewald's extensive interviews, turns out to be woefully poor, erring on the side of exclusion.

The lack of uniformity is staggering. Writes Ewald, "In two states, Maine and Vermont, felons retain the right to vote even while incarcerated; about one-fifth of the states disqualify only those currently serving time in prison. In most states, people in prison as well as those sentenced to probation, and/or on parole following release from prison, cannot vote — but everyone who has completed their sentence may vote. And in nine states, at least some people are disqualified from voting even after all aspects of their sentences have been discharged — some for waiting periods of two or five years, others indefinitely."

And yet, despite reports and fears of inequality, Ewald points to historical instances in which local control was responsible for the inclusion of many who might have been considered ineligible. Property ownership laws were often ignored for well-known community members. Long before the 19th Amendment many women were allowed to vote at least in local elections. Up until the 1920s even citizenship was not always a requirement.

Some local inconsistency, to be sure, can be a product of partisanship or inept poll workers or election officials, but the

process is enormously complex.

Acting democracy

Ewald's take is a mixed message that leans towards favoring local autonomy. After all, innovation can occur within localities and be empirically tested; localism gives voters greater control over the process; and it can limit certain kinds of fraud and corruption. To the extent that experimentation causes errors, Ewald argues that they're likely to be randomly distributed and thus would not skew an election. If they aren't random — a wealthier community has access to better voting technology than a poorer one — there's a problem that must be addressed.

That said, some of the experimentation he finds reasonable but disappointing, namely absentee voting and an idea that even in name causes him to shudder: "curbside voting."

"Voting," Ewald says, "is not just about recording our policy preferences. It's about picking a winner, but it is also about engaging in a public, ritual activity, affirming our identity and control and sovereignty over the political system. We need to elect a government that is legitimate in the eyes of the community, some number of voters need to know something about policy, but I also believe when that ritual involves more people, when they feel connected, feel equal to each other, that is also a way elections make a democracy function."

What Ewald calls his "weaker" case for local control is not that Americans shouldn't try to reform the failings that exist in that system, but to appreciate how much greater the impact of gerrymandering and the electoral college has on the meaning of an individual's vote. "We would still be doing radically unequal things when we vote because of deeper structural inequities," explains Ewald. "So that for me tempers the case for homogenizing voting practices."

That man in Vermont, along with voters in Texas and other "solid states," know their votes can't change the game. They, like Ewald, might favor abolishing the electoral college, but that is an incredible challenge that won't come soon, if ever. Yet the voters are there anyway. By whatever means their ballot is cast, they want a part in democracy.

As Ewald says in *The Way We Vote*, "For good or ill, the precious thing Americans call 'the right to vote' cannot be separated from the institutional context in which it is exercised. Local practices are that thing — they form it and create its meaning."

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UVM HOMEPAGE

INTERview: Gro Harlem Brundtland

Rising carbon, Sarah Palin, and the global poor: The UN envoy on climate change and first woman prime minister of Norway speaks her mind.

By Joshua Brown

Article published October 8, 2008

In 1981, at age forty-one, Gro Harlem Brundtland, a physician and mother of four, took on a new job: prime minister of Norway. She was the youngest person and the first woman to ever hold that post.



Under her leadership, Norway became a global symbol of social democracy — and she rose in stature so that today she is known as Landsmoderen or “mother of the nation.”

Dr. Brundtland, who served as Norway’s leader for over a decade, and from 1998 to 2003 as director-general of the World Health Organization, is now special envoy on climate change for the United Nations.

She will deliver the 2008 Aiken Lecture — “Integrated Solutions to

Global Environmental Problems: Combining Technological Approaches with Political, Social, and Economic Realities” — on Wednesday, Oct. 15 at 6 p.m. in Ira Allen Chapel.

the view spoke with Brundtland on Oct. 6 to find out more about her perspective on climate change and global politics in a post-Bush world.

THE VIEW: [The Global Carbon Project](#) recently released data showing that rates of carbon dioxide release last year were higher than in previous years and higher than the worst case scenarios painted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change just a few years ago. What can be done to change this trend?

GRO HARLEM BRUNDTLAND: This is very difficult, but we cannot underestimate the urgency of the climate change issue. And, of

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course, it's a more difficult problem now because during the last weeks the world has been focused on the financial crisis. That means political leaders and people in charge of important businesses and financial institutions are so focused on the economic outlook that it's tough to keep a sufficient level of attention to the long-term — but also urgent — problems which climate change pose.

I've heard debate about the effects of a global financial crisis. Some say that a worldwide slowdown in the economy would bring a slowdown in carbon emissions. Other people argue, no, the data is just the opposite — and we need strong growth to keep attention and resources directed at climate change.

Everyone should hope that the financial crisis will not lead to long-term recession globally. The point is this: the uncertainty of these financial issues takes other issues off the front pages and off people's attention. I'm just hoping that we will get sufficiently in order to be able to push the climate issue.

Are there particular strategies for keeping climate change on the front page? This has been a confounding problem for decades: we have these slow-motion long-term environmental problems that are always getting out-shouted by the needs of the day.

Leaders need to keep long-term issues connected to the needs of the day. You have to avoid too much decoupling due to acute and often very important problems — they tend to make breaks in our continuous work of getting ahead.

Look over the last 21 years, since the report [Our Common Future](#) came out which launched the whole concept of sustainable development and also warned about climate change. At that time, the attention of the world was unusually strong. And, after five years, we had the UN Rio Conference where most countries participated and at high levels. So the world's attention was there.

Then came 2001, and the Twin Towers, and the whole attention to terrorism. That took a lot of attention. But in the last couple of years the climate issue has come up again not only on politicians' minds, but also in the general public due to several reasons. In the US, Hurricane Katrina was important. All of a sudden people thought, "Whoa, something has happened here in the States. It's not only desertification in Africa or flooding far away; now it's happening here."

And then you have Al Gore receiving the Peace Prize last year and the attention brought to the climate issue by the new Secretary-General himself. So there has been an uplift and increased attention

to the issue in the last two or three years compared to five or ten years before that.

What do you see as the most important pieces of a successful climate change strategy?

It's a political challenge to bring the world together across different interests.

The developing countries and many countries in the South, especially in Africa and also small island states, see poverty and lack of development as their key issue. And then you have China and India building factories and cars and roads — and shaking their heads as long as the US is not coming forward to be part of the solution. They just say, "Well, per head, we have very low emissions in India and China, so who are you to speak to us?"

Which means a lot of bridging is needed in order to see the common interests in that global picture. We need to establish more of a common understanding of how we are all dependent on one another.

Unless the rich countries are willing to really reach out and help development in poor countries and to overcome poverty and to be more willing to come forward with more resources, the developing countries are not going to listen. They have good arguments as long as the U.S. is sending out one-fourth of the total carbon emissions globally.

There has been a long debate between people who argue that solving climate change is a technical problem and that we need to innovate our way out of it with new technologies, versus others who say, "No, this is a cultural problem; it's a problem of values and vision." What do you think?

It's mostly a *development* problem in big parts of the world. Too often, when people discuss technology, they are very much focused on OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) countries, rich already-developed countries like the U.S., Europe, and Japan.

But unless you reach out to the poorest countries as well, the issue will continue burdening the whole. So we need to look for combined solutions. Technology is not enough alone, but it is an important element. Today, good technologies and new technologies are not put into use. Technological change is a very slow process. Unless we are better at spreading those new technologies into the poorer countries they will continue increasing their emissions in the old-fashioned way.

Of course, if we did find new and good breakthroughs technologically, and then came forward with financial resources to stimulate countries like China and India and Brazil to put them to use: then technology can make a difference in both the rich and the emerging economies.

It seems many people are aware of that, and yet, at least in the U.S., the amount of federal funding that goes into research and development for new energy technologies is miniscule, almost zero. Do you see a change in the political weather coming on that front?

Energy is key with regard to climate. The only important hope many of us have is that whoever wins the election in the U.S. takes a more positive and a different approach to climate change. There is hope in the fact that there will be a new administration within a few months. If we have a new administration that announces an improved energy policy it will help a lot not just in finding new technological solutions, but also for international negotiations too.

What lessons does Norway and your experience as the prime minister have for the United States in this political era?

The most important lesson is that you cannot change development patterns unless you use regulation and stimulation. You must use incentives and disincentives to make industries and families and individuals make informed and better decisions. This can lead to cleaner cars, better rules about energy, and paying the real cost of carbon.

There was a bad development in the summer in the U.S. The bipartisan approach about having new energy and climate legislation was stopped. I think this may partly have been because there is an election coming up. We just hope that these stumbling blocks toward new legislation are something intermediary and that will change when there is a decision about who is responsible for presenting new U.S. policies next year.

Let's look at the upcoming election a little bit more closely. People in the United States have been riveted by the presidential candidacy of Hillary Clinton and now the vice presidential candidacy of Sarah Palin. As a pioneering woman in European politics, how do you see those two women in the long view of history?

You have to put Geraldine Ferraro into this view. They are three women who have been presenting themselves for, or have been asked to be, in major leadership roles.

But there is a big difference. In the case of Hillary Clinton she has a

long experience, and she was a presidential candidate. She happened to be there, in a historic sense, at the same moment as the first non-white U.S. presidential candidate. This is a special thing that happened historically. People, I mean the Democrats, had to choose between the first non-white presidential candidate and the first woman, and I think it was a pity that it happened in exactly that way because now we don't really know whether we could have had a woman break through this year. Clinton certainly has the background and the stamina and the political experience. In many ways, she could have been a formidable candidate facing the Republican candidate.

But Sarah Palin, she is new, and she is a vice presidential candidate which cannot really compare to Hillary Clinton. It is true that more women are being picked — or being used.

Continuing on the long view of history, I was fascinated to read in your memoir about the traumatic influence of the Second World War on your parents and on you as a child. How does that history of European conflict influence you now and how did it influence you as a young politician in the 1970s and '80s?

As a young person, even before I was a politician, there was a debate among young people, social democrats and others, about NATO, the NATO alliance, and the importance of standing together to defend our own countries and democracies against any aggressor.

That was part of my upbringing and part of my life and to me there was never a question that Norway should be part of the Atlantic alliance and that we needed to stand together to avoid a third world war. So in that sense, the war had a deep influence on the basics of my politics.

But, later, in trying to overcome the nuclear threat and the fact that the U.S. and the Soviet Union were competing in nuclear arms — and increasing the number of nuclear weapons and having them placed in different parts of the world — changed my thinking somewhat. This nuclear risk became more and more urgent in my mind, so that although I was a strong supporter of NATO, I also felt strongly that the discussion about a nuclear freeze and the controlling of nuclear weapons was critical.

So, on the one hand, being European, having seen war close-up, you want to avoid war by cooperation — but you also want to avoid a nuclear catastrophe.

It's not a simple question. How do countries with different opinions and different traditions and different interests gradually get to zero with regards to nuclear weapons? This is still a critical security issue

for the world.

Do you see a shared path forward on both climate change and nuclear security?

Nuclear proliferation is directly linked to what I just spoke about on climate change. It's not possible in a global perspective to have people agree to a strong effort towards avoiding the spread of nuclear weapons without getting commitments from those who already have them to reduce their arsenals in a serious way.

If you look at countries that have ambitions to have nuclear weapons, they simply don't agree that there are some countries who are supposed to have them and others not. The link between non-proliferation and reduction in nuclear arms is obvious.

I am struck by how much integration and linking between issues is a defining part of your approach to politics.

You're absolutely right. I was looking at the title of my speech that I will give at UVM, "Integrated Solutions to Global Environmental Problems." You have to ask the question: how can you have a holistic approach?

The point is that it's not enough to say what is realistic in the current context of social environmental and economic concerns. You have to ask how can you change what seems realistic today so that what is necessary within 10 or 20 years in fact can be done.

What is realistic today is not good enough. That's something I'm going to talk about in Vermont on the 15th of October. I mean moving from being realistic to being able to move ahead so that more can become realistic than is today.

Changing what is realistic seems like the heart of politics.

Yes, in a way it is.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Rural Studies: 30 Years Later

By Jon Reidel

Article published October 8, 2008



Fred Schmidt (far left), co-director of UVM's Center for Rural Studies for the past 30 years, speaks with U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy, a longtime supporter of the center, at the Vermont Statehouse in the late 1970s. (Photo courtesy of CDAE)

issues facing rural Vermonters discussed during the event. One of those issues, a lack of broadband connectivity in rural areas, highlighted the changes facing small-town America and the evolving issues the center has dealt with since Schmidt founded it in September 1978.

Ironically, the idea of high-speed internet access as an economic equalizer for rural businesses and as an effective tool for connecting people to local government received a healthy dose of skepticism from audience members who thought computers were also keeping people from interacting at the corner store or town hall. The debate seemed a fitting metaphor for Schmidt, who plans to semi-retire in 2009, and was captured in the words of a symposium attendee who shared her feelings with the audience.

"I feel sorry for people who have to communicate with Fred by e-mail," said the woman. "You just can't feel the passion and the heart of Fred in an e-mail. It's just not the same."

Schmidt, who came to UVM in 1970 as an assistant professor in sociology after running a Peace Corp cooperative in Malaysia, has been the face of CRS since founding it with faculty members Frank Bryan and Garrison Nelson, both professors in political science. Schmidt, who describes the threesome as "young empirically-oriented number crunchers" has carried the CRS flag ever since.

The number of heartfelt comments and expressions of gratitude toward Fred Schmidt, associate professor in Community Development and Applied Economics, at the 30th Anniversary Symposium for the Center for Rural Studies were as plentiful as the

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"Fred's work over the past 30 years has helped countless communities, provided access to relevant data for thousands, and inspired me to carry the torch for the next 30," says Jane Kolodinsky, co-director of CRS and professor and chair of Community Development and Applied Economics. "His spirit, energy and 'can do' attitude have helped many a rural community find its way in an increasingly urban world."

Generating data to empower local communities

The initial idea for CRS, a nonprofit, fee-for-service research organization created to address social, economic, and resource-based issues of rural people and communities, was an outgrowth of two courses taught by Nelson, Schmidt and Bryan in 1977-78 titled "The Rural Option in Urban America."

"Fritz (Schmidt) is a Cornell-trained rural sociologist, and I am an Iowa-trained political scientist, and we were both well aware of rural issues," says Nelson, who arrived at UVM in 1968. "We are good friends and when Frank Bryan, author of *Yankee politics in Rural Vermont*, joined the political science department we had a solid core group who could implement this (course) concept. With the course completed, Fritz was able to institutionalize the concept as the Center for Rural Studies with valuable input from Professors Hugo John, Larry Forcier and Mark Lapping of Natural Resources."

[CRS](#) would move ahead with dozens of projects over the next 30 years with a common goal of empowering rural communities through local initiatives. The center's work touched on all facets of rural life, ranging from the support of the state's 64 farmer's markets to helping town governments set up websites to curbing domestic violence.

"I'd really like to see us work more off campus and do more outreach so we can apply relevant data to local issues and initiatives," says Schmidt who plans to keep working on two major projects after he "retires." "I'm really excited about our food systems work and the overall direction the center is moving. There's a lot of work to be done, but we have an incredibly dedicated staff who do a lot of work on their own time because they care so much about helping people in these rural areas of the state."

The center also evolved into a comprehensive data center. It now provides consulting, research, and program evaluation services to Vermont and other states and countries while also serving as the state's U.S. Census Bureau's Vermont State Data Center. CRS is well known for its annual Vermonter Poll, which includes polling data about the state used by policymakers, paying clients and community leaders. The data and CRS resources include more than 40 social and economic indicators for every town in Vermont and the Vermont

Community Data Bank.

“All of this meta data has been produced with a public orientation,” says Schmidt, a former board president of the Community Transportation Association of America and 18-year member of the Shelburne Planning Commission. “I envisioned the data to be easily found and downloaded by a citizen so they could display it graphically and use it for their own analysis or to argue with the town curmudgeon.”

Past initiatives paved way for next 30 years

CRS has been as nomadic as Schmidt and his staff, who regularly travel to various corners of the state. It started without a physical location before an ‘office’ was set up in the basement of the sociology department. It spent the next 25 years moving from an open space on Redstone Campus to separate locations on Colchester Avenue to Hills Agricultural Sciences to the math department. “I had a yellow truck we used to load up with furniture from other departments that were getting rid of stuff,” recalls Schmidt.

CRS' current location in Morrill Hall seems appropriate considering its focus on economic development and further evolution into the area of food systems research. The center may undergo a name change reflecting a focus on the advantages of locally grown food while maintaining the old name and the values on which it was founded. “By definition centers are supposed to be dynamic and have a life, and when they outlive their purpose they either end or become something else,” said Kolodinsky. “The 30-year life of CRS has evolved into something extremely relevant with food systems being the new frontier. Fred brought us to this point and will help us continue to move ahead.”

To read some of the testimonials sent from around the country in celebration Fred Schmidt’s commitment to CRS over the past 30 years, click on the following link: [Tribute Page](#).

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UVM HOMEPAGE

UVM Remains Among Top Schools for Green Practices

By Jon Reidel

Article published October 7, 2008

The Sustainable Endowments Institute has ranked UVM among the top 15 schools nationally for green practices and policies, giving the school an overall grade of A- in its annual College Sustainability Report Card.

The university joins Harvard University, Dartmouth College, Middlebury College, Carleton College and the University of Washington as the only U.S. colleges and universities to receive an A- for two consecutive years. The institute, which ranked 200 schools last year and 300 in 2008, including those in Canada, also gave A-minuses to Oberlin College, the University of New Hampshire, Columbia University, Dickinson College, Brown University, the University of Colorado, the University of Pennsylvania, Stanford University and the University of British Columbia.

The institute graded schools with the largest endowments in seven categories and then awarded an overall grade. Its aim is to show a correlation between an institution's green practices and its investment decisions. In addition to its overall grade, UVM received A's in the following categories: Administration; Climate Change and Energy; Food & Recycling; Green Building; and Shareholder Engagement. It received B's in Student Involvement; Transportation; Endowment Transparency; and Investment Priorities.

A number of specific programs and initiatives helped boost UVM's score. President Daniel Mark Fogel's signing of the President's Climate Commitment, the creation of the sustainability office and the President's Commission on Sustainability in 2008 were cited under the Administration category. Other initiatives highlighted in categories where the university received A's included a clean energy fund to pay for renewable energy projects recommended by a committee of primarily students; the tracking of carbon emissions since 2002; UVM's commitment to purchase 30 percent of its food from Vermont-based companies; a diversion of approximately 35 percent of its solid waste through a comprehensive recycling and composting program; and the requirement that all new buildings and major renovations be LEED Silver certified at a minimum as has been the case with all new buildings since 2005.

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Since the release of the institute's inaugural 2007 report, UVM has been included in a number of sustainability and environmentally-based rankings. *Sierra* ranked the university third in the country in its annual Green College Guide for the number and quality of the university's environmental initiatives in a feature titled "10 Coolest Schools." *Forbes.com* named UVM one of "America's 10 Greenest Colleges and Universities" and *University Business* magazine named the university one of its 10 "Higher Education Sustainability Stars" for its "efforts to respect the environment and the communities that surround them in economically feasible ways." UVM was also listed as one of the nation's "Top 25 Environmentally Responsible Schools" by the *Kaplan College Guide 2009* for its wide range of environmentally significant initiatives and commitment to long-term sustainability. A Cornell University survey of 28 leading institutions found UVM to among the nation's top five institutions as a leader in the field of environmental sustainability.

The College Sustainability Report Card 2008 is the third such report from the Sustainable Endowments Institute and is published as part of the institute's broader effort to encourage discussion on sustainability in higher education. The institute, a special project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, receives funding from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, V. Kann Rasmussen Foundation and the Nathan Cummings Foundation, among others. The full College Sustainability Report Card 2008 is available on the [Sustainable Endowments Institute website](#). The Sustainable Endowments Institute is a Cambridge-based nonprofit organization.



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UVM HOMEPAGE

'Campus Grandma' Passes Away

By Thomas Weaver

Article published October 8, 2008

Helen Simino, known to generations of students as UVM's "Campus Grandmother," passed away on Sept. 23 at age 93. For more than forty years, Simino was one of the university's most welcoming faces, a steady, friendly presence in her work for the university's dining services, particularly during the 1990s when she was hostess at Cook Commons in the Billings Center.

Simino was a Vermont native, born in Newport Center. She lived on a small farm and worked in the local general store in Irasburg before moving to Burlington in 1960. She was the first housemother for Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity and joined UVM's campus food services in 1961.

The campus grandma was quick with a hug. Her standard greetings included "Hi, honey!" "Hi, beautiful!" "Hi, sweetie!" "Hi, gorgeous!" and, as she kept pace with the vernacular, "Hi, you handsome dude!"

The UVM Sodexo's employee customer service award carries her name.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Panel Discussion on Credit Crisis Slated for Oct. 9

By view Staff

Article published October 7, 2008

The School of Business Administration is sponsoring a panel discussion featuring two professors and two economic experts from local financial institutions titled "The Credit Crisis: Causes and Consequences" on Thursday, Oct. 9 from 5-7 p.m. in Fleming 101.

The panel includes longtime faculty members James Gatti, professor in the School of Business Administration, and Arthur Woolf, professor of economics, who teamed up to organize the event. They will be joined by Geoffrey Hesslink, senior vice president at Merchants Bank, and Eric Hanson, president of Hanson Investment Management, Inc., a local firm that manages equity and fixed income portfolios for individuals and family groups, businesses, endowments and foundations.

The event is free and open to the public.

Information: 656-8298.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Cornell Statistician to Deliver Burack Lecture

By David Stawarz

Article published October 8, 2008

David Ruppert, professor of engineering and statistical science at Cornell University, will deliver a Burack President's Distinguished Lecture titled, "Linear Statistical Models to Mixed Models to Semiparametric Regression" on Monday, Oct. 13 at 3 p.m. in the Music Building Recital Hall.

Professor Ruppert has published five texts and over a hundred journal articles on the use of novel statistical methodology in engineering, biostatistics and environmental science. He has worked on various applications including the estimation of term structures of interest rates, biomedicine, and the estimation of the concentration of pathogens in drinking water. He holds degrees from Cornell, the University of Vermont and Michigan State, and is a fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics and the American Statistical Association.

The lectured is sponsored by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. A reception will follow in the Music Building Lobby.

Information: 656-2940.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Director of Vassar Special Collections to Discuss Luther's Commentary on Galatians

By David Stawarz

Article published October 8, 2008

Ronald D. Patkus, associate director of the Libraries for Special Collections at Vassar College, will give an illustrated lecture titled "Biblical Commentary as Reformation Commodity: the Role of the Paratext in Luther's Galatians" on Monday, Oct. 13 at 4 p.m. in Marsh Lounge, Billings Library.

Martin Luther's commentary on Galatians is considered by scholars to be one of the most important Reformation texts. During the course of Luther's life, it was printed 21 times by different printers and in different places. The presentation of the commentary was never quite the same. Different paratextual elements, including illustrations, prefaces and dedications, were employed in each version. Patkus will address the significance of the paratextual elements in the different editions.

Patkus is an adjunct associate professor of history and the associate director for Special Collections, Donor Relations, and Outreach at Vassar College. He holds degrees from Boston College as well as the University of Connecticut. He has published several articles, and he co-edited *An Administrative History of Vassar College*.

This lecture is co-sponsored by the Department of Religion and the European Studies Program.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

UVM to Co-Sponsor Global Citizenship in Higher Education Conference

By The View Staff

Article published October 8, 2008

Many campuses strive to develop and prepare global citizens as part of their missions. But how do campuses define global citizenship? How can campus departments work collaboratively to determine effective approaches for fostering active citizen engagement? What are the strategies for improving student understanding of global and cross-cultural communities?

The second annual Fostering Global Citizenship in Higher Education Conference, Nov. 10-11, will engage participants in a variety of interactive workshops, working team sessions, and curricular design institutes to address these questions.

Day one of the conference will include a keynote speaker, a workshop on defining global citizenship for your campus, and a series of workshop sessions on such topics as identity development, international curriculum design, human rights, and arts in culture. Day two features two extended institutes on curriculum design for global citizenship on both a local and international level.

The UVM Office of Community-University Partnerships and Service-Learning (CUPS) is co-sponsoring this conference with Vermont Campus Compact, Middlebury College, and the School for International Training. It will take place at the Hampton Inn in Colchester on Nov. 10 and on the UVM campus Nov. 11.

Registrations for this conference are already coming in from across the country. The CUPS Office encourages interested UVM constituents to register for day one as soon as possible.

For more information, and to register, [visit the conference website](#).

Information: carrie.williams@uvm.edu.

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October 8, 2008

Awards and Honors

Brooke Mossman, professor of pathology and director of the environmental pathology program, received the 2008 Wagner Medal Award at the 9th International Conference of the International Mesothelioma Interest Group (IMIG) in Amsterdam on September 25. The award recognizes an individual who, in the opinion of the IMIG committee, has made a major contribution to mesothelioma research, either clinical or laboratory, over a number of years. Established in 2002, the award is named in honor of the late Chris Wagner, who pioneered research into mesothelioma and was the first to identify the association between asbestos exposure and mesothelioma.

Paula Duncan, clinical professor of pediatrics, youth health director for the Vermont Child Health Improvement Program and medical director of the Office of Primary Care, received the Oral Health Service Award and Job Lewis Smith Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). Awarded by the AAP Section on Pediatric Dentistry and Oral Health, the Oral Health Award recognizes an individual who, during the course of his/her career, has made significant contributions to the advancement of pediatric oral health through activities within the Academy. Duncan was honored with the Job Lewis Smith Award by the AAP Council on Community Pediatrics in recognition of her outstanding service in community pediatrics. Duncan is chair of the AAP Council Management Committee and chair of the AAP Bright Futures Implementation Advisory Committee. She is a co-editor of the third edition of Bright Futures.

Judy Cohen, professor of nursing, was selected by the Snelling Institute as a fellow for the 08-09 Vermont Leadership Institute.

Burton Wilcke, professor and chair of medical and laboratory sciences, will serve on the faculty of the George Washington University International Institute for Public Health Laboratory Management, a two-week program targeting laboratory directors from developing countries held in Washington, D.C. October 13 to 26. Participants from 13 different countries in South America, Africa and Southeast Asia are expected to attend. Wilcke was recently invited to serve on the Editorial Board for a special Supplement to

the journal Public Health Reports titled "The US Public Health Laboratory System."

Publications and Presentations

Judy Cohen presented research titled "The experience of movement meditation: A dance of rhythmic paradox and time" at the Sigma Theta Tau International, Kappa Tau Chapter Research Night on October 2, 2008 with co-authors **Betty Rambur**, dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, and **Cheryl Laskowski**, assistant professor of nursing.

October 1, 2008

Awards and Honors

Paula Duncan, clinical professor of pediatrics and youth health director of the Vermont Child Health Improvement Program (VCHIP), is the recipient of the American Academy of Pediatrics' (AAP) 2008 Clifford Grulee Award. Sponsored by the AAP Executive Committee and established in 1951, this award recognizes outstanding service to AAP beyond that required of the elected leadership. Duncan will be presented with the award at the Annual Business Meeting at the AAP National Conference and Exhibition in Boston, Mass., on October 13.

The Pediatric Inflammatory Bowel Disease Network for Research and Improvement (PIBDNet) Trailblazer Improvement Collaborative, led by **Richard Colletti**, professor and vice chair of pediatrics, has been selected as an Improve First initiative by the Alliance for Pediatric Quality (Alliance). Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) is a serious chronic condition affecting 100,000 children and adolescents. This collaborative of PIBDNet will develop a guideline and algorithms for Model IBD Treatment, as well as measures to track performance and outcomes. The Trailblazer Improvement Collaborative was selected from more than 50 improvement initiatives associated with priorities identified by the Alliance's expert task force. The priorities are based on the Alliance's Improve First philosophy: Spreading well-designed, well-run improvement initiatives with demonstrated results is one of the most important first steps the pediatric community can take to measurably improve children's health outcomes and transform how care is delivered. To date, the Trailblazer Collaborative has enrolled more than 1700 patients, creating the largest pediatric IBD registry in the country.

September 24, 2008

Awards and Honors

Edwin Bovill, professor and chair of Pathology & Laboratory