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UVM HOMEPAGE

## When Good Maples Go Red



On a hot day in September, William Young '10 snaked coils of antifreeze up these maple trees. It's all in a day's work during his internship with the US Forest Service — and one piece of two UVM-connected projects that ask: why do leaves turn red? (Photo: Sally McCay)

On a hushed October morning, when leaves have ripened to the fall, who hasn't stood under a flaming maple and wondered why it goes red? Though Robert Frost might have imagined something more poetic, tree physiologists will tell you the answer is anthocyanin. This is the pigment that leaves produce in autumn, creating the bright displays of red and purple foliage that draw thousands of wistful tourists (and their wallets) to New England.

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## Ending the Season-

**Ender** In the midst of the country's obesity epidemic, it's a cruel irony that the very activities that keep youth fit can also have casualties. Often described as "season-ending," sports injuries occur regularly in young athletes. • Though coaches and players might focus on the immediate restrictions posed by an injury, the possibility of future disability keeps Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation Professor Bruce Beynnon focused on prevention.

## Earmarks, Regulations and

**Law** The convergence of national headlines and faculty research represents a unique window of opportunity for a professor's work to gain a wider audience. Marc Law has the good fortune of having multiple areas of his research — the politics of federal earmarks and the political economy of regulation — among the list of currently hot topics registering on the national radar.

## THE WEEK IN VIEW

Oct. 15-30. Living/Learning Center Gallery: "Celebrating Africa: Works from the Lydia Clemmons Collection, Authentica African Imports." [Information.](#)

Oct. 16. 4 p.m. Vermont Business Center Lecture: "Five Regions of the Future: A Revolutionary Roadmap to the 21st Century" with Joel Barker, author, consultant and speaker. Main Street Landing, 60 Lake Street, Burlington. [Information.](#)

Oct. 16. 5 p.m. Writers Workshop: Greg Melville, non-fiction. John Dewey Lounge, Old Mill.

Oct. 16. 8 p.m. "Pope Pius XII and World War II" with Gerhard Weinberg, professor emeritus of history, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Davis Auditorium, Medical Education Center Pavilion, Fletcher Allen Health Care. Information: 656-1492.

Oct. 18. 9 a.m. Historic Tour of UVM. [Information, registration.](#) Tour begins at Ira Allen statue, Main Green. Tour runs Saturdays, through Oct. 11.

Oct. 18. 7 p.m. Indian Classical Vocal Music Concert: Pandita Tripti Mukherjee. \$15 general admission, \$10 for members of Friends of Indian Music and Dance, \$5

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## When Good Maples Go Red

By Joshua Brown

Article published October 15, 2008



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anthocyanin. This is the pigment that leaves produce in autumn, creating the bright displays of red and purple foliage that draw thousands of wistful tourists (and their wallets) to New England.

But chemistry is not cause. "We know the basic biochemical reasons (leaves go red)," says US Forest Service researcher Paul Schaberg — under stress, leaf sugars are converted to anthocyanin — "but the ecology and exact mechanisms are still unknown." Why does a maple go yellow one year and red the next? Are cold nights the trigger? Does the red color serve to deter insect pests? "There are dozens of competing theories," he says.

Which is why he and his intern, UVM forestry student Will Young '10, are peering up into a sugar maple outside the Forest Service Research Station on Spear Street. Below the tree, they've installed a tarp-covered freezer, festooned with blue wires and silver tubes that run up into the branches. Inside the tubes, antifreeze flows to selected twigs and keeps them colder than the surrounding branches.

And, sure enough, the chilled branches displayed brilliant red leaves last week and are now a naked November grey, while the surrounding branches are still covered with yellow leaves. "If we can understand what triggers anthocyanin production — cold is clearly part of the picture — then we can better understand the reasons

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Though Robert Frost might have imagined something more poetic, tree physiologists will tell you the answer is

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Though coaches and players might focus on the immediate restrictions posed by an injury, the possibility of future disability keeps Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation Professor Bruce Beynon focused on prevention.

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why the tree produces anthocyanin," Schaberg says. "It comes at a metabolic cost to the tree late in the season to make the pigment; so, what are the benefits?"

### **Farther into fall**

To explore this question, Schaberg and Paula Murakami, his colleague at the Forest Service, have been collaborating with UVM researchers John Shane, Gary Hawley and others in the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources.

For decades, forestry textbooks claimed that anthocyanin served no function as trees prepared to drop their leaves; it simply became visible as green chlorophyll molecules broke down in autumn. But more recent research from around the world has proposed numerous ways that anthocyanin could benefit trees in autumn: as a sunscreen to protect leaves from excess light, as an antioxidant to help repair leaf damage, and to help resist cold and drought. In short: it's made, not left over.

A recent [paper](#) in the journal *Trees*, co-authored by Forest Service and UVM researchers, showed that in sugar maples the stems of red-colored leaves were more firmly attached than their yellow brethren. This observation adds another piece to the hypothesis that Schaberg and his colleagues have been exploring: anthocyanin may allow trees to keep absorbing sugars and nutrients from leaves later into the fall — an obvious advantage for a sugar maple living on a cold mountainside with a short growing season.

"Me? I just climb up and down ladders with duct tape," says Will Young, with a grin, as he carefully places tiny disks of chopped leaf into a test tube of methanol. As part of a USDA minority scholarship he received through the Rubenstein School, each week Young works with researchers in labs at the Forest Service and on campus, as they measure sugar levels, record chlorophyll content, and search for clues about how a maple makes a living.

"In NR1, my first day here, we talked about why leaves turn red," Young says. "This is Vermont. Everyone cares about red leaves."

### **Climate considerations**

And one of the reasons people care about red leaves is that their role in Vermont's landscape — and economy — may be under threat from climate change.

On Oct. 1 at UVM's Proctor Maple Research Center in Underhill Center, researchers Tim Perkins, Abby van den Berg and Tom Vogelmann launched a new project also looking for answers to the question, why do leaves go red?

"Like the team at the Forest Service, we're asking a basic question

about how temperature affects leaf color. The hypothesis is that cool, but not freezing, nights promote anthocyanin development," van den Berg says.

"But underlying this basic question, we want to be able to better predict how climate change is going to affect fall coloration," she says.

At the Proctor Center, the researchers have about 200 seedlings in pots. Some, in a refrigerated blue tub, are kept colder than the surrounding air — one group only at night, others all the time. Over the fall, van den Berg has been monitoring the seedlings' color development with a digital camera and using a handheld meter to measure anthocyanin and chlorophyll content.

"Cold at night may prevent the leaf from exporting all the sugars it made during the day into the twig and therefore they get trapped in the leaf," she says. And these sugars are the backbone of anthocyanin synthesis — "they provide the precursors," she says. With a warming climate, the researchers want to know how this process will change, perhaps cutting, extending or delaying the "leaf peeping" season.

At the end of their three-year project, funded by the USDA, van den Berg hopes to have a clearer forecast about the future of red foliage.

"Our primary focus here at Proctor is maple syrup production, but a lot of those producers depend on fall tourism to sell their product. Leaf season really permeates throughout local economies all year long," van den Berg says. The Vermont Department of Tourism tallied visitor spending during last year's fall tourism season at \$363 million.

And climate change may affect not just the leaves but the tree species of New England's forests too. "If we lose our sugar maples or our red maples (to climate change)," van den Berg asks, "what is that going to do to our fall color?"

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UVM HOMEPAGE

## Ending the Season-Ender

By Jennifer Nachbur

Article published October 15, 2008



Student-athletes Sarah Madey (L) and Sy Janoset participate in the ACL Injury Risk Factor Study in Patrick Gym on Oct. 1. Research team member Tim Tourville and student trainer Kelsie Turn assist. (Photo: Sally McCay)

In the midst of the country's obesity epidemic, it's a cruel irony that the very activities that keep youth fit can also have casualties. Often described as "season-ending," sports injuries like New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady's knee ligament tears occur regularly in high

school and college athletes. The Center for Injury Research and Policy reports that during the 2005-06 school year, participation in high school athletics resulted in an estimated 1.4 million injuries. And knee injuries like Brady's top the list of causes of high school sports-related surgeries, according to a June 2008 *American Journal of Sports Medicine* study. •

• Though coaches and athletes might focus on the immediate restrictions posed by an injury, the possibility of future disability keeps Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation Professor Bruce Beynnon focused on prevention. That's because arthritis, a disease marked by joint inflammation due to cartilage breakdown, strikes earlier in athletes with ligament injuries. •

• Supported by grants from the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS), Beynnon and his team recently completed a first-time ankle injury risk factor study in young area athletes. That research supplied a great foundation for his current five-year study on first-time anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injury risk factors. He and his team have been working with athletic directors, athletic trainers, parents and student athletes at 14 Vermont high schools and six area colleges, including UVM, to closely examine the elements that result in injury to ultimately

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provide the groundwork for a prevention protocol. Their goal is to study 200 injured (100 male, 100 female) athletes and 600 non-injured athletes. •

- “Our study design allows us to examine all suspected or implicated risk factors in a comprehensive manner and consider every possible risk factor combination and how they interact to predispose an individual to injury,” explains Beynnon. The study will include schools within an hour drive of UVM and sports such as field hockey, men’s and women’s soccer, basketball, gymnastics and lacrosse. A big piece of the research involves gathering measurement data for each athlete participating in the study prior to the onset of their season, and then completing data collection once an injury occurs. •

Certified athletic trainer Rebecca Choquette, who works with the UVM women’s basketball team, has noticed a disappointing trend over the past 13 years. “When I first started, it was not a question of if I would have an ACL injury to deal with that season, but which athlete it would be, and when the injury would happen. Now our athletes are coming to college having already sustained a major knee injury, and I have to manage the chronic effects that those injuries cause over time.” •

### **Gathering the data**

- On the first of October, orthopaedics and rehabilitation research team members Dr. James Slauterbeck, associate professor, Tim Tourville, clinical research coordinator, and Helen Smith, research project assistant and UVM’08 athletic training graduate, spent the early part of the morning gathering preseason data in Patrick Gym from UVM women’s basketball players. They took some dynamic measures of neuromuscular control to determine how people land from a drop-vertical jump. Study participants stood on a one-foot-high box, jumped forward two feet, and then jumped in the air. The entire process was videotaped.

The drop-vertical jump — a landing mechanics measurement — is only one of a long list of variables being examined by the research team. They are also gathering information about anatomical alignment, injury history, family injury history, temperament and character, demographics and biomechanics. Females supply a saliva sample to measure estradiol and progesterone concentration, because, as Beynnon’s previous research has shown, hormone levels may impact injury risk. The researchers are using a case-controlled study design. For every injured athlete that is enrolled in the study, they identify and enroll three matched cases — individuals who play the same position, had similar exposure to the sport and have the same level of expertise. Those who get injured and the matched controls go through a series of other measures, including a

recording of extrinsic factors at time of injury, such as what the athlete was wearing on his/her feet, whether the playing surface was wet or dry, was it natural or artificial turf, and the temperature.

- One of the study's "perks" is a knee MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) from UVM's new exclusive research MRI facility. This state-of-the-art technology allows Beynnon and his team to capture a three-dimensional picture of the knee's internal geometry, which Beynnon describes as the most powerful risk factor for ACL injury. The MRI provides a series of articular surface measures, including a very accurate view of the femoral notch where the ACL is located. "The way the joint surfaces of the femur (thigh bone) contact the joint surface of the tibia (shin bone) as you land from a jump, pivot or change direction, is critical," he says. "Some people have a cupped joint surface on their tibia while others have a flat joint surface. While the cupped is more congruent, a flat tibia produces increased loads on the ACL, which place it at increased risk of injury. In addition, the angle of the joint surface of the tibia is also very important. The greater the angle, the greater the shear force on the tibia, which in turn, increases the strain on the ACL." •

In reality, says Beynnon, everyone is at risk of injury, but when you look at specific sports where you can step in the wrong place at the wrong time, there appears to be a consensus that a higher rate of ACL injuries occur in women compared to men. However on a national level, more ACL injuries are suffered by men in such "collision sports" as lacrosse, rugby and football. Beynnon's job, and the focus of his research team, is to look at each individual's "risk equation" — multiple factors like the shape of the joint surface of the tibia, weight, femoral notch dimensions, biomechanics, and anatomy — and figure out the overall contribution of all of those elements. He believes that answering the risk question lies in that particular combination of factors. For example, if the issue is strength, and the muscles that flex a person's knee, hip or ankle may be weaker, that person will be more likely to strain that area.

### **Long-term goals**

"Research like this is imperative for us," says Choquette. "It can help us pre-screen our athletes and identify who's more at risk and enable us to develop sport-specific strength and conditioning programs at all levels of athletic participation."

Spending time and effort on prevention and reducing the number of injuries produced is the most important thing, Beynnon emphasizes. "The current literature indicates that a person has a similar risk of developing arthritis if she injures her ACL and has surgery and rehabilitation compared to suffering the same injury and only undergoing rehabilitation," he says. "It will take some time for us to understand how to prevent these debilitating injuries, because you have to understand what initially produced the injury before you can

determine what should be done to prevent it.” •

- Choquette has her own version of a long-term goal for the study: “Hopefully, this work can turn the trend around again and allow me to say, ‘ACL injuries? No, we don’t see those much anymore.’” •

For more information about the “ACL Injury Risk Factor Study”, call (802) 355-5470.

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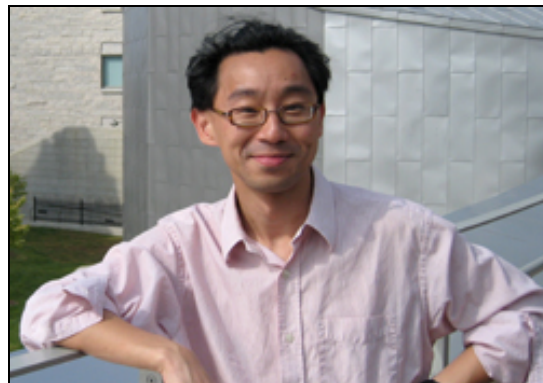
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UVM HOMEPAGE

## Earmarks, Regulations and Law

By Jon Reidel

Article published October 15, 2008



Marc Law, assistant professor of economics, was asked to provide expert background on a case involving FDA warning labels that has reached the U. S. Supreme Court.

The convergence of national headlines and faculty research represents a unique window of opportunity for a professor's work to gain a wider audience. Marc Law, assistant professor of economics, has the good fortune of having multiple areas of his research

— the politics of federal earmarks and the political economy of regulation — among the list of currently hot topics registering on the national radar.

Earmarks have been an especially popular topic with both presidential candidates touting their aversion to pork barrel spending (McCain used the term seven times in the first two debates). The recent passing of the \$700 billion bailout package has further fueled the discussion. Vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin, who vows to end the abuses of earmark spending by Congress, has drawn fire from skeptics who claimed she initially supported the "Bridge to Nowhere," which McCain helped make a symbol of pork barrel excess.

Law, who has published a number of papers on earmarks, believes them to be a "necessary evil" in a current system that rewards elected officials who deliver narrow benefits to their constituents. "Do I like earmarks?" he asks. "No, but we need them to build coalitions and get legislation passed. It's unfortunate that we have to accept something that's inefficient and unsavory, but aside from bribing people in Congress, which is illegal, earmarks are the only bargaining chips available. I don't know if Congress could exist under its current system without earmarks."

"By focusing on a specific type of earmark--the agricultural research earmark--Law has shown the consequences, both

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intended and unintended, of pork barrel projects in his 2006 paper "The Strange Budgetary Politics of Agricultural Research Earmarks" and in a 2008 paper from the *Review of Agricultural Economics* titled "Earmarked: The Political Economy of Agricultural Research Appropriations." The latter paper shows how earmarked research grants appropriated through the USDA require far less scrutiny than research grants obtained through research agencies such as the National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health that recognize the importance of competitive peer review and believe that "the determination of what research activities deserve federal assistance should be made by men and women who were themselves competent in the sciences covered."

The paper also shows how the rise of earmarking at the USDA has "reinforced the belief that decisions about the allocation of research funds need to be made by experts if the quality of scientific (research) is to be maintained." He concludes that while such legislation wasn't intended to generate opportunities for political pork, once special grant authority arose for the USDA, it "created an avenue for individual legislators to bring home narrowly defined benefits to their constituents at the cost of the population at large."

#### **Weighing in on a U.S. Supreme Court case**

Law has conducted extensive research on various regulatory topics including the origins of state food labeling laws; the enforcement of the Pure Food and Drug Act; the emergence and adoption of occupational licensing laws; the effect of occupational licensing legislation on minorities; and the origins of truth-in-advertising laws. He has authored a forthcoming paper in the *Journal of Law and Economics* titled, "The Effects of Occupational Licensing Laws on Minorities: Evidence from the Progressive Era."

"In that paper, Law shows the unintended consequences of the introduction of licenses to practice professions ranging from medicine to cosmetology. The practice was originally thought to be an attempt to limit competition from minority groups like women or blacks but often ended up having no effect or a reverse one. "It had no real effect in most cases," says Law. "White male workers (in the early 1900s) may have introduced these laws to reduce competition from blacks or females. Ironically, licensing ended up giving credibility to minority workers and actually helped reduce stereotypes, especially in highly skilled occupations like medicine or pharmacy."

Due in part to his expertise in these areas, Law was asked to submit an amicus brief along with Daniel Paul Carpenter, the Allie S. Freed Professor of Government at Harvard, and Aaron S. Kesselheim, instructor of medicine at Harvard, regarding a U.S. Supreme Court case. The case of *Wyeth v. Levine*, in which the drug company challenges a Vermont Supreme Court decision to award Diana

Levine \$6.8 million, is scheduled to be heard on Nov. 3.

Levine had an arm amputated when a physician's assistant inadvertently injected a dose of "Phenergan" (promethazine HCl), a drug to treat nausea, into an artery, leading to gangrene. The Vermont Supreme Court concluded the drug label had inadequate warnings. Wyeth argues that it could not comply with both state and federal law, claiming federal law prohibits "unilateral changes to FDA-approved labeling," and in this case federal law preempts state product liability laws.

In the brief, Law, Carpenter and Kesselheim conclude that the Court should affirm the judgment of the Vermont Supreme Court, saying that "Congress's refusal to preempt state failure-to-warn litigation is demonstrably wise policy." They argue that state-law failure-to-warn litigation plays "an essential role in promoting drug safety and that significant imbalances of safety-related information are inherent in the approval of pharmaceutical products." The outcome of the case will have a major impact on tort reform, which could make it more difficult to get a case to court and would reduce awards.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

## Faculty Grants and Fellowships Available in Service-Learning

By The View Staff

Article published October 14, 2008

The Office of Community-University Partnerships and Service-Learning (CUPS) is offering a new cycle of grants and fellowships available to faculty.

The CUPS Faculty Implementation Grant for Service-Learning provides grants up to \$1,000 for expenses associated with creating a new service-learning course, adding service-learning to an existing course, or initiating a new long-term service-learning partnership. These grants are available to any faculty member teaching a credit-bearing UVM course; funds must be expended by December 2009.

The Faculty Fellowship for Service-Learning program provides a \$750 professional development stipend to faculty members who complete a spring semester training in service-learning pedagogy and agree to teach at least one service-learning course as a result of this training. Sessions will take place every other week during the Spring 2009 semester. Applications are competitive, as the program only accepts six to eight fellows each year. To date, more than 60 faculty members have completed this fellowship program.

The deadline for both programs is Friday, November 7, 2008.

[Read more about the program and obtain application forms.](#)

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## The Secret Is Out at UVM

By David Stawarz

*Article published October 15, 2008*

"There are two kinds of secrets," Frank Warren explained to a crowded hall on Tuesday, Oct. 14, "those we keep from others and the ones we hide from ourselves." Frank is neither a social worker, nor a psychiatrist, yet he is uniquely qualified to make such a statement; in 2004, he began collecting others' secrets for his community art project, PostSecret.

The concept was simple, but profound. Warren handed out blank postcards, asking strangers in Washington D.C. to send in their secrets anonymously on those cards. The response astonished him. Reading through the secrets he received, Warren was surprised by both the "soulful artwork...and the frailty and heroism [he] sees in the secrets of ordinary people like you and me living our everyday lives." Warren continued the project, creating a blog on which to post the secrets. It quickly grew, gaining attention worldwide. It was shortly followed by the release of four PostSecret books, a music video featuring secrets from the website, and PostSecret events around the country.

Tuesday evening, Warren came to Ira Allen Chapel for one such event. He began by talking about the roots of his project and shared some of the unpublished secrets. But it was in the second half of the evening that the significance of the PostSecret events became clear. According to Warren, there is a difference between the secrets he posts on the internet and those published in his books. The internet conveys the immediacy of the secrets; that as you read them, someone somewhere is carrying them still. The books on the other hand, are intended to convey an eternal narrative about the secrets in us all.

The event on Tuesday evening revealed another feature of the PostSecret world, the deeper sense of community fostered by the sharing of secrets. Warren believes that the same secret that can burden a person could be an invaluable gift if shared. Near the conclusion of the presentation, ten brave individuals chose to bare their vulnerability and offer their secrets. Those shared, just as the secrets found online, varied in subject and mood. One woman recounted her childhood habit of offering an extra sandwich to the boy who had stolen her lunch in the past. Another spoke about a friendship she forged through the online PostSecret community — today, the pair periodically text each other their secrets. The

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response was one of overwhelming support and acceptance — encouraging a sense of community and kinship.

Frank plans on doing ten more PostSecret events before the year ends in almost as many states. Those dates, as well as his continuing project, can be found on his blog: [postsecret.blogspot.com](http://postsecret.blogspot.com).

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UVM HOMEPAGE

## Athletic Department Receives \$1 Million Bequest for Scholarships

By Jon Reidel

*Article published October 15, 2008*

The athletic department received a \$1 million bequest for scholarships from longtime supporter and alum George H. Schofield III '51, who passed away on Sept. 20 at the age of 78.

At the time of his retirement from Goodyear, Schofield created the Schofield Athletic Scholarship Fund through the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company Directors' Charitable Award Program. The gift was designated to support athletic scholarships for recipients from states other than Vermont with first preference going to residents from New Jersey. Recipients must be in the top one-third of their high school graduating class and are required to remain in the top 50 percent of their respective UVM class.

"While our current student-athletes did not have the privilege of knowing George, he will forever influence their lives through this fund," said Robert Corran, director of athletics.

Schofield, who was active in the United Way of Boston with his wife Barbara, was a fan of the men's basketball team and coach Tom Brennan, now an analyst with ESPN. They met during the Catamounts' three-year NCAA-tournament run from 2003-2005 when Schofield's grandchildren attended UVM.

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## Seminar Looks at Politics of Appointments to Vermont Supreme Court

By Jon Reidel

*Article published October 14, 2008*

The Center for Research on Vermont is sponsoring a talk by Cheryl Hanna, professor of law at Vermont Law School, on "The Politics of Court Appointments: Does it Matter Who is Governor for the Vermont Supreme Court?" on Oct. 22 at 7:30 p.m. in Marsh Lounge (Room B308) in the Billings Center.

Hanna, a graduate of Harvard Law School and regular commentator on legal issues for Vermont Public Radio, WCAX and *Seven Days*, examines trends of the Vermont Supreme Court and tracks its decisions to determine whether the appointment process has resulted in the same kind of ideological divisions seen on the United States Supreme Court. She'll also talk about whether the political makeup of the Vermont Supreme Court, comprised of three justices appointed by Democratic governors and two by Republican governor Jim Douglas, is reflective of its decision making.

The event, part of the Center for Research on Vermont's Research-in-Progress Seminar series, is free and open to the public.

Information: [Center for Research on Vermont](#), 656-4389.

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## Monks to Create Mandala in Museum's Marble Court

By The View Staff

Article published October 14, 2008

Over a period of one week, from Oct. 15 through Oct. 22, Tibetan Buddhist monks from the Namgyal Monastery will create a mandala, a circular, intricate painting meticulously made from colored grains of sand, in the Fleming Museum's Marble Court.

Upon completion, the mandala will be cast into a body of water, in a gesture that symbolizes the impermanence of existence and the ideal of non-attachment to the material world.

The public can watch the construction of the mandala during regular museum hours (with the exception of Wednesday evenings and lunch breaks), and is invited to witness the dismantling of the mandala in the Marble Court on Wednesday, Oct. 22 at 5 p.m.

[Information.](#)

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## Mongolian Music and Dance Performance Slated for Oct. 21

By The View Staff

Article published October 14, 2008

Students from the Performing Arts College of Inner Mongolia University will present a performance of Mongolian Music and Dance on Tuesday, Oct, 21, at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Building Recital Hall on the Redstone Campus. A dessert reception will follow the performance, which is free and open to the public.

The group will be performing at various venues across Vermont between Oct. 21 and Nov. 5. The UVM performance is hosted by the Global Village Residential Learning Community in recognition of Chinese House, which was the Global Village "House of the Year" for the 2007-2008 academic year.

This non-commercial, educational/cultural arts exchange program is presented by the Leland & Gray Union High School Journey East program, and is made possible with major funding from The Freeman Foundation and support from UVM's Asian Studies Outreach Program.

Information: 656-4200.

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## UVM Hosts 28th Annual Vermont Outstanding Teacher Day

By The View Staff

*Article published October 14, 2008*

On Wednesday, Oct. 22 two teachers from each of Vermont's supervisory unions and school districts will gather in Davis Center's Grand Maple Ballroom from 3 to 6 p.m. to be recognized for their exceptional work as Vermont state educators. The chosen teachers exemplify one or more of the five standards for Vermont educators, which are: learning, professional knowledge, advocacy, collegueship, and accountability.

Registration and a reception begins a 3 p.m., and the ceremony, which includes a keynote address by Vermont Teacher of the Year for 2008, Diane Bahrenburg of Colchester High School, begins at 4 p.m.

Information: 656-0259.

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## Early Roman Expert to Lecture on Ovid

By The View Staff

Article published October 15, 2008

T.P. Wiseman, professor emeritus of classics at the University of Exeter, will deliver a Burack President's Distinguished Lecture on Thursday, Oct. 16 in Waterman Manor at 5 p.m.

Currently at work on a new translation of Ovid's *Fasti* — a poem on the Roman calendar — the ancient Roman culture expert will discuss "Times and Reasons: Ovid's *Fasti* as a Historical Poem."

Wiseman's half century of research on the late Roman Republic has helped reveal the history, mythology, and literature of ancient Rome, with particular attention paid to historiography and the myth-history of early Rome.

Along with his forthcoming translation, he is the author of numerous books, including *Catullan Questions* (1969), *The Myths of Rome* (2004), and, most recently, *Unwritten Rome* (2008). He is a winner of the American Philological Association's Goodwin Award of Merit.

Information: 656-3210.

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## NOTABLES

*October 15*

### Publications and Presentations

**Cathy Beaudoin**, assistant professor of business administration, presented a co-authored paper at the annual meeting of the American Accounting Association in Anaheim, Cal. in August 2008. The paper, "An Empirical Investigation of the Defined Benefit Pension Plan Freeze Decision," investigates key motivations underlying firms' decisions to freeze their defined benefit (DB) plans. It examines whether DB plan freeze decisions are motivated by: financial accounting considerations; cash flow related incentives; and improving a firm's competitive position. Based on a sample of S&P 500 firms, the findings indicate that DB plan contribution volatility and improving the firm's competitive position do not impact the freeze decision process as significantly as management might suggest. Instead, results imply that the effect of proposed pension accounting changes plays a primary role in the decision to freeze DB plans. Co-authors are: Nandini Chandar and Edward Werner, Drexel University.

**Garrison Nelson**, professor of political science, published "Democracy, Diversity, and the 2008 Presidential Election: Mapping State Electoral Votes by Diversity Propensity" in *The International Journal of Diversity in Organisations, Communities & Nations*.

**David Novak** and **Christopher Hodgdon**, assistant professors of business administration, and **Lisa Aultman-Hall**, director of the Transportation Research Center, recently had a paper accepted for publication in *Network and Spatial Economics* titled, "Nationwide Freight Generation Models: A Spatial Regression Approach." Feng Guo, professor of statistics, Virginia Tech, was co-author. The paper investigates spatial issues associated with freight generation models. A spatial regression modeling methodology is employed to correct for spatial autocorrelation — a linear correlation or dependence among variables based on spatial proximity. New variables are proposed, formulated, and then tested to capture spatial effects. Multi-zone spatial variables are proposed, based on the assumption that certain social-economic and/or transportation hubs will not only impact freight generation in the zone where they are located, but will also impact freight generation in the surrounding zones. The research demonstrates that linear regression models using widely available socioeconomic data suffer

from spatially correlated residuals. The application of spatial regression modeling techniques can improve model fit and eliminate problems associated with the spatial autocorrelation.

*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."