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[Total Immersion](#)



Rebecca Witinok-Huber is an outstanding triathlete who excels in the classroom and volunteers with children. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

When Rebecca Witinok-Huber, a UVM junior and member of the swim team, is in the midst of one of the many long runs she logs in preparation for a triathlon her thoughts often drift to the children she taught in Malawi, Africa during a trip there last summer.

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[Powerful Teacher](#)

He is a longtime teacher of middle, high school and college students, so it's fitting that David Massell would be one of this year's winners of UVM's Kroepsch-Maurice Award for Excellence in Teaching.

[A Farm's Friends](#)

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THE WEEK IN VIEW

Oct 28, 7:30 p.m.
Lecture and reading: "What is Discovered: Writing Historical Fiction," with Jaime Manrique. The novelist discusses his research and writing and reads his poems in celebration of Latino Heritage Month. Memorial Lounge, Waterman Building.
Information: 656-3196

Oct. 29, 8 p.m.
Lecture: "Tibet: Past, Present and Future," with Nawang Rabgyal, Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to the Americas. Benedict Auditorium, Marsh Life Sciences Building.
Information: 656-5764

Oct. 31, 7:30 p.m.
Concert: Halloween Organ Concert, with David Neiweem, university organist. Event features UVM's new Rodgers Trillium Digital Organ. Ira Allen Chapel.

Nov. 1, 3:30 p.m.
Colloquium: "Imagining Ireland: the Early Years," with Anthony Bradley, English. John Dewey Lounge, Old Mill.
Information: 656-3056

Nov. 1, 5:30 p.m.
Event: "Images in the Naturalist's Trance," with Bernd Heinrich, professor emeritus of biology, UVM. Reception to follow. Free to UVM affiliates and museum members.

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NEWS BRIEFS



Vermont's gubernatorial candidates faced-off in a televised Billings Apse debate that featured questions from UVM students. (Photo: WPTZ-TV)

Billings Debate Offers Democracy in the Round

It's hard to say how H.H. Richardson, the eminent 19th century architect, would have felt. The majestic apse in his Billings Library had become, for the moment, a tricked-up set for producing television.

Normally an enclave for solitary study, the transformed apse, a round, wood-paneled room with a soaring, vaulted ceiling, was the site of a town-meeting style gubernatorial debate broadcast live by NewsChannel 5, WPTZ, and NewsChannel 31, WNNE, on Oct. 9.

TV producers had spent the day streaming the balcony with red white and blue banners, setting up risers for cameras and candidates, carefully arranging 60 Windsor chairs for the audience, branding the enterprise with a large telegenic sign (A "Commitment 2004" Special, it read), and putting in place all the intricate electronics a 21st century remote live telecast requires.

Richardson might actually have approved: the dressed-up apse conveyed a kind of democracy in the round, with candidates Douglas and Clavelle intimately connected to audience and viewers in a room that evoked the history of the state and republic.

Along with channels 5 and 31, the debate was co-sponsored by UVM's Student Government Association. The audience featured 22 UVM students and 48 other citizens from around the state, all chosen based on questions they submitted to the stations in advance.

During the debate, audience members, stalked

UVM, Student Groups Encourage Voting

University officials and students are predicting high voter turnout for the upcoming presidential election and say they've done their part to adhere to a federal law that requires universities to provide students with as much voting information as possible.

Pat Brown, director of student life, sent out an all-campus informational e-mail, an additional paper mailing and posted of flyers on campus. He credits SGA student groups such as the Committee of Legislative Action and the various politically affiliated organizations on campus with helping get out the word. "There's definitely a higher level of awareness among students," says Brown, who has been at UVM during six presidential elections.

According to a survey conducted by the *The Chronicle of Higher Education* and the Institute of Politics at Harvard, the majority of colleges and universities are not in strict compliance with a 1998 amendment to the Higher Education Act requiring universities to make a "good-faith effort" to provide students with voter-registration materials. Almost two-thirds, however, reported making only some effort to comply with the law.

The law requires colleges to obtain voter-registration forms 120 days before the local registration deadline (Oct. 25 in Vermont) and distribute them to students enrolled in all degree or certificate programs. With the act governing most federal student-aid programs, institutions that fail to comply risk losing federal student-aid funds. UVM officials say the university is in full compliance.

Of the 249 institutions that responded to the Chronicle's survey, 48 percent said they had had procedures in place, while 33 percent said they did not have such procedures and 19 percent said they were "not sure."

Students have the option of voting in Vermont or by absentee ballot in their home state. With most pundits predicting a noncompetitive presidential race in Vermont, some students are choosing to vote by absentee ballot in their home states where the race is expected to be much closer.

Senior Kelly Chamberlain, who has been instrumental in registering students to vote, says she intends to vote in her home state of Pennsylvania, considered a swing state. Katy Strauus, president of UVM's College Democrats, has been spending her time canvassing New Hampshire, another swing state, and plans to vote there.

by microphone-wielding WPTZ co-anchor Stephanie Gorin and a roving camera, read questions addressed to either Governor Douglas or Mayor Clavelle. Each candidate then had the opportunity to rebut. WPTZ co-anchor Thom Hallock moderated.

Douglas and Clavelle were predictably combative, with questions ranging from how state tax forms might be simplified (for Governor Douglas) to whether or not the Conservation Law Foundation is playing constructive role in the state's environmental debate (for Mayor Clavelle).

On one question posed by a UVM student, though, governor and mayor came close to agreeing.

After reminding the candidates of UVM's high costs, first-year student Ben Porter asked, "Do you have plans for increasing the university's funding?"

Calling himself a "fan of President Fogel and UVM," Douglas said that the state hadn't gotten overnight to its current second-to-worst rank among the states and promised to chip away at the problem, pointing out that last year's funding increase was the eleventh highest in the nation.

Clavelle, who said he has a good and very active working relationship with the president, pledged to give the issue very high priority.

Karen Meyer, vice president for state and federal relations, who worked with the SGA to bring a gubernatorial debate to campus, swore she hadn't planted the question and joked that she wanted both answers on tape.

WPTZ was thrilled with the event and setting and seemed ready to make it a regular occurrence. "We could certainly see coming back," said NewsChannel 5's news

UVM to Host 18th Century Conference

The university is hosting the 28th annual meeting of the Northeast American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, which will take place Nov. 4-6 at the Sheraton Burlington Hotel and UVM Conference Center and on campus.

The conference, which this year has the theme "Borders and Crossings," is expected to attract about 160 scholars in the formal program; organizers invite students, faculty and staff to attend individual sessions they are in, or formally register for a nominal administrative fee.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for students in particular to see what their professors do," says Dennis Mahoney, professor of German and Russian and conference chair.

The program opens on Nov. 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the UVM Recital Hall, Redstone Campus. David Neiweem, professor of music, is organizing a concert of "Eighteenth-Century Humours," period

With the Nov. 2 election fast approaching, Brown says students who are registered here must prepare to actually go and vote. Students living on Redstone Campus vote at Edmunds Elementary on Main Street, while everyone else living on campus votes at Mater Christi School on Mansfield Avenue. Shuttles are provided to both locations.

Students living off-campus vote at the polling place in the precinct in which they live.

The youth vote, which comprises 18- to 30-year-olds and includes 30 million people, accounted for less than 4 percent of the entire voting population in 2000. Supporters of voter mobilization efforts say encouraging younger voters will help them form lifelong habits of civic engagement. Voter turnout among people between the ages of 18 and 24 has declined for the past 30 years, dipping to 42 percent in 2000.

With Boston Championship One Win Away, President Urges No Redstone Rerun

UVM President Daniel Mark Fogel sent this e-mail to the campus community on Oct. 27:

The potential for the Boston Red Sox to secure a world championship after an 86-year hiatus understandably stirs up strong emotions. Many members of the UVM community have been infected with "Red Sox Fever," and I expect that we will see many happy fans if and when the BoSox win.

While some level of exuberance is understandable and expected, the kind of destructive, dangerous behavior we experienced on Redstone Campus last week was irresponsible and embarrassing to the entire UVM community. We were fortunate that no one was seriously injured.

Five students have been arrested for their involvement and also face University judicial action. The charges include aggravated assault, disorderly conduct, arson, and impeding a police officer. We expect additional arrests in the near future and several suspensions are imminent. We have set up a web site (www.uvm.edu/police) and follow the link marked "Riot Photos") asking the help of the UVM community in identifying those involved. I believe that the resulting citations and other disciplinary actions will help to reinforce the message that this type of action is intolerable.

Many students are rightly angry that tens of thousands of general fund dollars that could have been spent on scholarships or other worthy needs will now be spent on repairing vandalism. The relatively few individuals who caused this damage should be ashamed of themselves, and, as I have explained above, we will hold them fully responsible for their actions.

I have great confidence in our students and expect that they will engage in safe, reasonable behavior. Many are upset about last week's

music corresponding with some of the talks during the proceedings. Philip Baruth, professor of English, will give a talk, "What Even Boswell Can't Say Out Loud: A Novelist's Account of Madness, Exhibitionism and Silence in the Lives of the Brothers Boswell," including a reading from his Boswell novel-in-progress. A free, public reception featuring 18th century desserts concludes the evening.

Other events include dozens of presentations, and a group book signing and plenary lecture featuring Kari Winter, formerly of UVM's Department of English. Winter's lecture begins at 3:15 p.m. on Nov. 5 at the Sheraton; the signing and reception follows her talk at 5 p.m. For a complete schedule of events, visit [Conference Program](#)

Information: [NEASECS](#)

incident and will take an active role in encouraging others to make good decisions. I have high hopes that good judgment will prevail. But make no mistake: we will make every reasonable effort to prevent vandalism and, most importantly, keep students safe.

I encourage all members of the UVM community to exercise judgment worthy of our excellent educational institution. At the conclusion of the World Series, I expect that any celebrations will be positive and safe.

theview

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UVM to Co-host Third Annual Tibet Festival Oct. 29-30

Spend a weekend in Tibet without leaving home at the third annual Tibet Festival Oct. 29 and 30. The free, public event provides an opportunity to learn about the rich culture and traditions of Tibet through the country's music, food, dance, song, art and history. The event is co-sponsored by the Asian Studies Program at the University of Vermont, the Tibetan Association of Vermont and the City of Burlington's Community and Economic Development Office.

This year's special guest is Nawang Rabgyal, representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to North and South America and director of the Office of Tibet in New York. His talk, "Tibet: Past, Present and Future," will explore Tibet's historical development, the nature of the Tibetan struggle and the vision of the Dalai Lama. Rabgyal, who has lived in exile since 1959 when Chinese forces occupied Tibet, will speak at 8 p.m. on Oct. 29 in Benedict Auditorium in the Marsh Life Sciences Building on the UVM campus.

On Oct. 30, the festival venue moves to Burlington's Memorial Auditorium, where guests may browse from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Tibetan crafts bazaar, enjoy delicious traditional dishes, a video presentation titled "Tibet—Out of This World," and performances of Tibetan music and dance featuring costumes and songs passed down from the ancestors. A display of *thangkas*, or Tibetan religious paintings, will also be on view.

Information: nancy.lindberg@uvm.edu

Halloween Run Will Benefit Swimmers and Divers

The swimming and diving team and Shelburne Athletic Club are co-sponsoring a Halloween 5K Run on Oct. 31. The race will start at 9:30 am at

Historian D'Emilio and Economist Mokyr to Lecture Oct. 28

Historian John D'Emilio and economist Joel Mokyr will be on campus Oct. 28 to deliver two separate lectures taking place under the auspices of the President's Distinguished Lecture Series. D'Emilio will give a talk titled, "Lost Prophet: The Life and Times of Bayard Rustin," in the McCrorey Gallery of Bailey/Howe Library while Mokyr will discuss "The Intellectual Origins of Modern Economic Growth" in John Dewey Lounge, Old Mill Building. Both lectures are scheduled for 4 p.m.

D'Emilio is professor of history and gender and women's studies at the University of Illinois-Chicago. His biography of Rustin, published in 2003, was nominated for the National Book Award. Chief organizer of the 1963 March on Washington, Rustin brought non-violent protest to the civil rights movement and to the work of Martin Luther King, Jr. In his book, D'Emilio recalls the triumphs of the politically controversial Rustin and also examines how homophobic attitudes and discriminatory laws affected the career of Rustin, a gay, black man.

D'Emilio is founding director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Policy Institute. A scholar on the civil rights movement and the history of sexuality, his earlier books include, *Sexual Politics*, *Sexual Communities: The Making of a Homosexual Minority* and *Intimate Matters: A History of Sexuality in America*.

An internationally renowned economic historian, Mokyr's research examines the economic roots of technological growth and the relationship between industrialization and economic welfare.

Mokyr is the author of six books, including the acclaimed *Lever of Riches: Technological Creativity and Economic Progress*, *Industrialization in the Low Countries* and *The Gifts of Athena: Historical Origins of the Knowledge Economy*, which suggests that the

Patrick Gymnasium.

Registration and a tie-dye T-shirt is \$28, or \$15 without the shirt. Organizers will also offer prizes for the best Halloween costumes. A 200-yard "kid's dash" will begin 30 minutes before race time.

Registration and information: 985-2229 or [Shelbure Athletic Club](#)

Nieto to Talk on Teaching Nov. 3

Sonia Nieto, professor of education at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, will speak on "Solidarity, Courage and Heart: Lessons from a New Generation of Teachers" on Nov. 3 at 4 p. m. in Memorial Lounge, Waterman. The talk is part of the President's Distinguished Lecture Series.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y., Nieto attended public schools in New York City before earning a degree in elementary education and eventually teaching at the college level. She has over 35 years of experience in teaching and has instructed students at all levels, from elementary school to graduate school. An advocate of multicultural education, much of Nieto's scholarship has focused on the education of Latinos, immigrants and students of other cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

Nieto is the author of several books on multicultural education as well as the inspirational book, *What Keeps Teachers Going?* She has also written numerous book chapters and articles and is currently working on two new books, *Dear Paulo: Letters from Teachers to Paulo Freire* and *Why We Teach?*

In recognition of her advocacy and activism, Nieto has received many awards, including the Human and Civil Rights Award from the Massachusetts Teachers Association, the Teacher of the Year Award from the Hispanic Educators of Massachusetts and the Multicultural Educator of the Year Award from the National Association for Multicultural Education.

European Enlightenment produced scientific knowledge about nature that has shaped economic development.

A professor of arts and sciences and economics and history at Northwestern University, Mokyr is editor-in-chief of the *Oxford Encyclopedia of Economic History* and editor of the *Princeton Economic History of the Western World*. He recently completed a term as president of the Economic History Association.

The President's Distinguished Lecture Series was established by President Daniel Mark Fogel in October 2002. Funded by discretionary gift funds, the series brings top researchers to campus to enhance the academic experience, showcase faculty, students and programs, and bring the campus community together regularly.

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Awards and Honors

Karen Plaut, professor and chair of animal science, received this year's John C. Finley award, named in honor of a former Vermont Commissioner of Agriculture, and presented to an individual "whose character, dedication to Vermont agriculture and education, and whose accomplishments most closely resemble those goals, ideals and achievements that were so important to John. This award is bestowed annually upon that individual held in the highest esteem by the Vermont Agriculture Community." The award was presented by John's daughter Kate and by Jackie Folsom, who nominated Plaut for the honor, at the recent annual meeting of the Vermont Dairy Industry Association.

Dr. **Mildred Reardon**, associate dean for primary care and clinical professor of medicine, won the "Founder's Award" at the annual meeting of the Vermont Medical Society on Oct. 23. Dr. **Jerold Lucey**, received the group's distinguished service award, the society's highest honor. Dr. **Joseph Haddock**, clinical associate professor of family medicine, received the physician of the year award. Dr. **Frederick Bagley**, clinical associate professor of surgery, was honored with the physician award for community service.

Publications and Presentations

Dennis Mahoney, professor of German and Russian, has contributed a comprehensive essay on the German author "Friedrich Leopold von Hardenberg (Novalis, 1772-1801)" to *The Literary Encyclopedia* at www.LitEncyc.com. The article discusses the life and works of this major author of German Romanticism, including a detailed analysis of his philosophical, theoretical, and literary significance in the development of German literature from the 1800s to the present day.

Kevin McKenna, professor of German and Russian, is the author of an article titled "If a Claw Gets Stuck, the Whole Bird Is Lost,: Proverb Function in Leo Tolstoy's Play *The Power of Darkness*." The essay is a contribution to *Res humanae proverbiorum et sententiarum. Ad honorem Wolfgangi Mieder*, edited by Csaba Földes in Germany in recognition of Mieder's work on international paremiology. The paper shows Tolstoy's interest in and use of folk proverbs by means of detailed analyses of contextualized references.

Wolfgang Mieder, professor and chair of German and Russian, is the author of " 'hochvart ie seic unde viel': Sprichwörtliche Lehren in Wolframs von Eschenbach *Parzival*" that appeared in *Mittellateinisches Jahrbuch*. The article deals with the didactic and philosophical use and function of proverbs in the German medieval epic *Parzival*, showing by means of contextualized examples that proverbs play a key role in the basic message of this work.

Frank Owen, professor of art, is exhibiting a body of new paintings at the Nancy Hoffman Gallery in New York City. This is Owen's ninth one-person exhibition in a 25 year affiliation with the gallery. The show can be seen at 429 West Broadway from Oct. 30 to Nov. 30.

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Total Immersion

By Jon Reidel

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Rebecca Witinok-Huber is an outstanding triathlete who excels in the classroom and volunteers with children. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

When Rebecca Witinok-Huber, a UVM junior and member of the swim team, is in the midst of one of the many long runs she logs in preparation for an upcoming triathlon her thoughts often drift to the children she taught in Malawi, Africa during a five-week trip there last summer.

In many ways, her experience teaching children about the environment and HIV/AIDS prevention in one of the world's poorest

countries, while at the same time training for her first Ironman triathlon, typifies the way Witinok-Huber has lived her life since coming to UVM from Iowa City.

"I think about those kids a lot. They have a place inside you — a piece of your heart," says Witinok-Huber, who is studying wildlife biology. "I feel like I've been very lucky and blessed with a lot of things, so I saw the trip as an amazing opportunity to give something back — to try to make people smile. It wasn't easy trying to train at the same time, but I found a way to make it happen."

But not without a struggle. Upon her arrival in Malawi with World Camp Inc., a non-profit organization designed to educate children in impoverished communities about HIV/AIDS education, environmental awareness, and nutrition, Witinok-Huber was told that biking was too dangerous and that she couldn't run alone or show her legs in public. Maintaining her weekly peak training of 50 miles of running, 300 miles of biking and 10 miles of swimming appeared impossible.

But the self-described "Iowa farm girl" with a love of animals and a fiercely competitive spirit improvised. After locating a small 20-yard pool, Witinok-Huber tied one end of a tether around her waist and the other to a nearby tree and swam in place a few miles each day. She also worked out a deal that allowed her to run with a partner at a nearby golf course. For weight training she attached blocks and gallon jugs to a pole.

"She truly amazes me," says her mother, Pat Witinok, a teacher and geologist who often travels to Burlington to see her daughter swim. "She's always had the ability to adapt to whatever environment she's in. UVM has been such a supportive environment. Her coaches and her professors have been interested in her as a whole person. The teachers in natural resources have shown great respect for her athletics and the athletic department has supported her academically. She's always been an Iowa Hawkeye, but I think now she's truly a Catamount."

Ed Colodny and 'Foxy the Pet Pig'

Not long after returning from Africa, Witinok-Huber won the 20th annual Esprit Triathlon in Ile Notre Dame, Quebec, covering the 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile

Powerful Teacher

He is a longtime teacher of middle, high school and college students, so it's fitting that David Massell would be one of this year's winners of UVM's Kroepsch-Maurice Award for Excellence in Teaching.

A Farm's Friends

Burlington's wrap-around suburb of South Burlington is well known for wide roadways rimmed with malls, car dealerships and brand-name stores where much of county's retail business takes place. So it is surprising that in the midst of this business zone hides a 97-acre oasis of wild lands, arboretum-class horticultural specimens and an organic farm — the UVM Horticultural Research Center.

bike and marathon run of 26.2 miles in just under 11 hours. Considering that most triathletes peak around age 30, the win by Witinok-Huber, 20, was surprising, especially for a first-time Ironman competitor. Her time qualified her for the 2005 Hawaii Ironman — the most prestigious triathlon.

Given her background growing up on a farm near Iowa City with 20,000 hogs, Witinok-Huber's work ethic isn't surprising. Her mother remembers thinking her daughter had something special after watching her win a junior showmanship award, which required her then tiny 10-year-old to walk around a 200-pound hog at an Iowa fair. She also swam daily, ran and was a member of 4H.

After a successful high school swimming career, Witinok-Huber started looking at colleges with good swim teams and strong wildlife biology programs. She heard UVM was strong in both areas and decided to take a visit. While on a tour of the campus Witinok-Huber ran into interim president Ed Colodny, who offered to show her how to get to her orientation class. Already hooked on UVM, the encounter reassured her feeling that Burlington was where she wanted to spend the next four years.

"I told him that I was from Iowa and he started telling me about an essay he'd read about a student from there who showed hogs and had a pet pig named Foxy. I told him that I was the one that wrote it. We laughed about it, but I was highly impressed that out of thousands of applicants he remembered that," she says.

Exceeding expectations

When Witinok-Huber enrolled in 2002, coach Gerry Cournoyer thought she had enormous potential. She has since exceeded his highest expectations by guiding the Catamounts to eight wins in 2003-2004 (the most since the 1985-86 season) and by qualifying for the ECAC Championship in the 100-meter butterfly after placing 10th at the America East Championship.

Her times this year have been even more impressive. She won the 50-meter butterfly in a time of 28.48 in UVM's opening meet (she was also third in the 100-meter butterfly). She's also an honor-roll student and community volunteer.

"She's a girl that has really grown and blossomed at UVM," Cournoyer says. "She was unsure about some things when she first got here, but through a tremendous work ethic is already well beyond where she was last year. We knew she had potential, but she already surpassed that above and beyond what she's accomplished in the pool. From a community service standpoint, she's been such an asset working with (at-risk) students from the Baird School and with kids in Special Olympics."

It's in the sport of triathlon, however, that Cournoyer, who coaches a number of other local triathletes, sees his star pupil excelling on a professional and maybe even Olympic stage.

"She's going to be an outstanding triathlete and can go professional after she graduates," Cournoyer says. The *Montreal Gazette* concurs, calling her a "promising young star" after her Quebec win. "She can make ability to make the Olympic Trials," Cournoyer continues. "For someone to be this good at such a young age isn't very common. She's a rare commodity in this sport."

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Powerful Teacher

By Lynda Majarian

Article published Oct 21, 2004

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David Massell, leading a recent student trip to Montreal. The view is from Mount Royal looking east-southeast across downtown and the St. Lawrence River. (Photo: Luke Brindamor)

He is a longtime teacher of middle, high school and college students, so it's fitting that David Massell would be one of this year's winners of UVM's Kroepsch-Maurice Award for Excellence in Teaching.

"I was a teacher before I was a scholar," says Massell, an assistant professor of history. Feeling the urge to explore more challenging material in the classroom, Massell switched gears and returned to the classroom himself — at

Duke University, where he earned a Fulbright, several grants, a doctorate in history and the 1997 Distinguished Dissertation Award, bestowed every two years by the Association for Canadian Studies in the United States.

He feels he has found his niche in the college classroom, teaching courses on topics in U.S. and Canadian history and seminars in environmental history. "College students have a lot in common with fifth-graders," he says. "They want to learn and can handle the content in class because their hormones aren't getting in the way."

Massell, who also teaches in the Canadian Studies Program, relies on the senses to bring history alive for his students. "I always punctuate my lectures with visuals," he says, such as maps, political cartoons and archival photographs. "Visuals help to engage students in the act of thinking in another era, through the eyes and voices of others."

Of his teaching philosophy, Massell says he tries to develop students' skills and teach them to love history. "I've had undergraduates who hated history when class began, and loved it by the end of the semester," he says.

Trips and topics

Field trips are also often part of the curriculum, whether it is a day in Montreal to study the history of an urban landscape, a tour of art galleries and history museums, or an opportunity to watch the Canadian Parliament in session. On the day *the view* interviewed Massell in his Wheeler House office, he was emailing students to be at the bus by 7:30 a.m. the next morning for a Montreal day trip. "I'll call a student, then he or she will call two students, and most of them will show up," he says. "It's a requirement, and they always enjoy it."

In addition to advising 47 students this term, a task he says "fills up all my office hours and then some," Massell is also co-director of undergraduate education for the History Department. "My job is to oversee undergraduate advising for the department, including helping to orient new faculty to their advising responsibilities," he explains. "I also advise students who are not history majors or whose regular advisor is unavailable to meet."

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For several years he has also been faculty advisor to the History Forum, a group that hosts speakers and organizes educational field trips, as well as producing the award-winning student journal, the *History Review*. In the past, Massell has also lead a summer canoe trip to Canada that is centered on history and changing landscapes. Although that trip is now on a back burner, he remains a self-described “passionate paddler” in his spare time.

His research, funded in part by the Government of Quebec, traces the resources and industrial development of Canada’s north country and specifically the Saguenay River watershed — an area about the size and shape of Maine, located in the middle of Quebec. His 2000 book, *Amassing Power: J. B. Duke and the Saguenay River, 1897-1927*, explores the hydro-electric development of the Saguenay by American capitalists in the early 20th century. Currently, he is “following the story upstream and forward in time,” from the 1920s through the 1940s, illustrating the integration of economies that was primarily driven by American thirst for electricity. He recently published an article on this research in the *American Review of Canadian Studies*, and will probably culminate the project with a second book.

The combination of teaching and research is a good fit for Massell. “We are a wonderful teaching department,” he says of his fellow history faculty — several of whom are past Kroepsch-Maurice recipients. “While I am happy to have the recognition this year,” he says, “it could well have gone to several of my colleagues.”

The Kroepsch-Maurice Excellence in Teaching Awards highlights faculty for excellent classroom instruction, and memorializes Robert H. and Ruth K. Kroepsch and her parents, Walter C. and Mary L. Maurice, who were all teachers. Robert H. Kroepsch served as registrar and dean of administration at UVM from 1946-56; Ruth K. Kroepsch graduated from UVM in 1938; and her father, Walter Maurice, graduated from the university in 1909.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

A Farm's Friends

By Cheryl Dorschner

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Hardy "Friends": At an Oct. 16 workshop, volunteers planted 800 bulbs at the UVM Horticulture Farm in South Burlington. Among them, from left, Ruth Painter of Williston, Leonard Perry, Ann Milovsoroff of Shelburne and Stephanie Miner of South Burlington. (Photo: Cheryl Dorschner)

Burlington's wrap-around suburb of South Burlington is well known for wide roadways rimmed with malls, car dealerships and brand-name stores where much of the county's retail business takes place. So it is surprising that in the midst of this business zone hides a 97-acre oasis of wild lands, arboretum-class horticultural specimens and an organic farm — the UVM Horticultural Research Center.

Purchased in the 1950s by UVM for agricultural and horticultural research and classes,

the site still preserves that fifties feeling. Straight, gravel roads are flanked by rows of vegetable crops, lines of mature crabapple trees stretching into the distances and other plantings in blocks or rows, research-style. A one-story building, sided in "meetinghouse blue" metal, houses a workshop, classroom and office. The interior décor is faux wood veneer punctuated by grey metal office furniture and stacking chairs. A thermos of coffee and box of donuts or cookies alongside a sign-in sheet substitutes for a human welcome. The place bespeaks a comfortable, unpretentious feeling that causes insiders and close friends to call it affectionately "The Hort Farm."

A decade of support

The Hort Farm has many close friends, and since April 1994 they've been friends with a capital "F."

Like any good friends, these gardeners, professional horticulturists and volunteers came to the rescue when the Hort. Farm's fate was uncertain during talks of a potential zoning changes in 1994. Their interest began when members of a statewide gardening organization, the Hardy Plant Club, toured the facility with UVM Plant and Soil Science Professor Emeriti Norman Pellett. They saw a collection of 120 different kinds of crabapples, 90-plus lilacs, 60 varieties of junipers, significant hardy rhododendrons, viburnums, conifers and other trees, shrubs, apples and perennials — a mature, valuable collection with national-class potential and great need of maintenance. Within months, volunteers worked with UVM and applied their expertise, loppers and pruners to modestly spruce up the plants

Ten years later they haven't stopped caring for and identifying those specimens.

"I think we're right on track — our goal was to take care of the major woody collection and it has never looked better. I think public awareness of the facility has increased, and we've seen an important increase of activity with the students with the Common Ground Farm and the UVM Horticulture Club as well as grade-school tour groups," says David Heleba, a founder and former

Total Immersion

When Rebecca Witinok-Huber, a UVM junior and member of the swim team, is in the midst of one of the many long runs she logs in preparation for a triathlon her thoughts often drift to the children she taught in Malawi, Africa during a trip there last summer.

Powerful Teacher

He is a longtime teacher of middle, high school and college students, so it's fitting that David Massell would be one of this year's winners of UVM's Kroepsch-Maurice Award for Excellence in Teaching.

board member.

This nonprofit corporation chartered “to help promote, protect and improve the collection at the University of Vermont Horticultural Research Center” has:

- Created a dues-paying membership of more than 200 and a database of over 1,500 interested people, held events, workshops, seed swaps, plant sales, tours and auctions every year that have netted income which is poured back into the maintaining and building the collection.
- Began an extensive on-computer map of the complete collection and a forest inventory.
- Identified and labeled woody plants, a task slated to be finished in the next 18 months.
- Built an information kiosk that acts as a gathering spot for information and activities.
- Worked with neighbors in an ongoing effort to improve water quality and restore the banks of Bartlett Brook running through the property.
- Supported UVM students running the on-site Common Ground Farm with grants, volunteer work and even a truck.
- Tapped the expertise of UVM and Extension professors and staff such as Pellett, Michael Vayda, David Barrington, Mark Starrett, Leonard Perry, Buddy Tignor, Margaret Skinner, Lorraine Berkett, Elena Garcia, Ann Hazelrigg, Nancy Hulett, David Heleba and others.
- Published “A History of the Hort Farm” and “Native Shrubs and Vines for Vermont” by Norman Pellett and an annual calendar – in its fourth year – highlighting friends and regional gardening events.
- Relocated and labeled the Marchen Skinner Fern Collection and other species under the direction of Barrington.
- Built a Cary Award garden featuring plants that have won the Cary program’s distinction due to their proven performance in New England gardens and a perennial and bulb display garden.

The group also joins hands with the UVM Extension Master Gardener program to mutual benefit.

“We actively support the Horticultural Research Center by providing volunteer members to help maintain its valuable plant collections,” explains Nancy Hulett, coordinator of the home horticulture programs. “In return, the Master Gardeners gain practical horticulture experience that they share with the gardening public in educational projects. It is a wonderful benefit to both organizations.” Hulett calculates that Master Gardeners logged in 660 hours at the UVM farm so far in 2004 alone, which she sets at a value of \$9,900.

Tending the soil

While some founders had visions that the horticulture farm could be Vermont’s version of the Montreal Botanic Garden or Arnold Arboretum, the board took its cues from the university.

“There were two things we’ve had to reconcile,” says current president and long-time member Judy Goodyear, “the things we might do and the things the university controls. We work within the university’s parameters. We’re just here to appreciate the Hort Farm and to help.”

The farm’s tenth anniversary marks a maturing rite of passage for both the friends and the university. Both groups are taking stock and looking ahead. The friends have crafted a survey to be taken by neighbors, UVM affiliates, friends, Vermont horticultural businesses and professionals and will mull over the results in a Jan. 22 retreat.

“We want to hear their evaluation of the last decade and to find out what the Friends of the Hort Farm can do for UVM in the coming years,” says Goodyear.

Meanwhile, UVM is organizing a faculty committee to meet in early November to look at the Hort Farm facility, finances, outlay, resources and the role of the Friends for the future, according to new Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Michael Vayda. “We want to plan with them on how we can have public awareness and access and preserve the goal of research and teaching for the university,” he says.

With this kind of careful tending, it’s clear that the Friends of the Hort Farm has been identified and labeled “a hardy perennial.”