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Natural Network



Seventy-two feet high and rising: Sampling atmospheric conditions above Mount Mansfield's canopy with UVM staff member Mim Pendleton (left) and state employee Sean Lawson of the Vermont Monitoring Cooperative. (Photo: Joshua Brown)

Mercury is a mystery. Or at least it's a devilishly complex and poorly understood toxic substance that can be found in many forms and in many places. How it moves in a forest canopy, from dry air to leaves and ground — and back — is poorly understood. Which is why I'm standing 72 feet off the ground with Mim Pendleton and Sean Lawson from the Vermont Monitoring Cooperative.

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Med Dean Q+A Among administrators new to the University of Vermont this fall is Dr. Frederick Morin, 17th dean of the College of Medicine. In an interview that previously appeared in Vermont Medicine, Morin expresses his hopes and plans for the College of Medicine.

THE WEEK IN VIEW

Nov. 1, 7 p.m. Will Miller Social Justice Lecture: "Is the War on Terror a Cover for the Expansion of the American Empire?" with writer William Blum. Sugar Maple Ballroom, Dudley H. Davis Center. Information: (802) 849-2315.

Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m. Lane Series Presents: Mamadou Diabate Ensemble. A free, pre-concert talk with the artists will begin at 6:30 p.m. \$25 adults/\$20 students. UVM Recital Hall. [Information](#), [tickets](#).

Nov. 5, 6 p.m. Aiken Film Series: *Together*. 101 Fleming Museum. [Information](#).

Nov. 6, Noon. Staff Council Meeting. Livak Ballroom, Dudley H. Davis Center. Information: 656-4493.

Nov. 6, 6 p.m. Community Medical School: "Antibiotic Resistance: Miracle Drugs Under Siege" with Kemper Alston, associate professor of medicine. Carpenter Auditorium, Given Building. [Information](#), [registration](#).

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Innovative cooperative monitors Vermont's forests on many fronts

By Joshua Brown

Article published October 31, 2007



Seventy-two feet high and rising: Sampling atmospheric conditions above Mount Mansfield's canopy with UVM staff member Mim Pendleton (left) and state employee Sean Lawson of the Vermont Monitoring Cooperative. (Photo: Joshua Brown)

Mercury is a mystery. Or at least it's a devilishly complex toxic substance that can be found in many forms: air-borne particles, vapor, or caught in the liquid matrix of rain and snow. It can be bound to soil, absorbed in leaves, processed by bacteria or trapped in the fatty tissue of birds and people. And

how it moves in a forest canopy, from dry air to leaves and ground — and back again — is poorly understood.

Which is why I'm standing 72 feet off the ground with Mim Pendleton and Sean Lawson from the Vermont Monitoring Cooperative. They've brought me here — onto the west flank of Mount Mansfield to the top of a tower that sticks above the highest trees — to see sophisticated collectors that measure fluctuating mercury levels as air moves through the treetops.

"I can't believe how still it is," says Pendleton. There is so little wind that we can hear the wings of ladybugs clinking on the aluminum poles of the tower. It's hard to imagine that the languid breeze could have traveled from much farther than the maples spread below.

But filter packs that stick out from this tower regularly measure deposits of dry mercury that travel from coal-fired powerplants in Ohio and Pennsylvania and other points farther away. And just downslope from here, another instrument has collected the world's longest record of continuously measured mercury deposited in rain and snow, contributing to a national data set that shows how mercury moves in a pattern as big as the planet.

Big issues, broad effort

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[Med Dean Q+A](#)

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This is just one of more than 130 studies housed under the broad roof of the Vermont Monitoring Cooperative, a highly unusual partnership between UVM, the State of Vermont, and the US Forest Service – and over 60 other partners, like Eric Miller, a scientist with ERG, Inc. who is leading this canopy investigation.

The VMC's five-person staff is drawn from UVM, like Pendleton, who is a field technician employed by the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources – and from the State of Vermont, like Lawson, who is employed as the VMC's monitoring coordinator by the Department of Forest, Parks, and Recreation.

Under a 1996 memorandum of understanding, and with funding from the Forest Service, the VMC not only manages this canopy tower at UVM's Proctor Maple Research Center, but also a meteorological "supersite," nearby with some dozen instruments owned by a range of state and federal government agencies – including NOAA and Vermont's Agency of Natural Resources. The cooperative also runs scientific plots at Mount Mansfield and on Forest Service land at Lye Brook Wilderness in southern Vermont to measure forest health, as well as two meteorological stations on Lake Champlain, one at Colchester Reef and the other at Diamond Island.

"The big picture is: We're here to provide the information needed to understand, manage and protect Vermont's forested ecosystem in a changing global environment," says Lawson, with a small smile, reciting the organization's mission from memory.

And numerous datasets and reports available at the [VMC's website](#) show the range of this work:

- Under "Forest" there are studies of red spruce in the understory, the population of the plant *Diapensia lapponica*, how to monitor ozone using white clover and the condition of birch trees.
- Under "Soil" there's a bedrock mapping report, methods for long-term soil monitoring, a study on the impacts of trails in the arctic-alpine zone and one on soil temperature gradients in a northern hardwood forest.
- Under "Wildlife" is a report on using drift fences to survey amphibians, an assessment of methylmercury in Bicknell's thrush, surveys of small mammals and insects and a study of responses of songbirds to ski trails.
- Under "Air" are studies of ecosystem carbon dioxide exchange, fine aerosol monitoring, meteorology at the Mount Mansfield summit, chloroform and more.

All these studies are part of a broadly practical effort, says Jennifer Jenkins, a UVM scientist recently appointed to lead the cooperative, to provide "information and science to help us manage our forests into the future."

Acid test

It was forests of the past that gave birth to the Vermont Monitoring Cooperative in 1990. “It grew out of the experience of the acid rain days in the 1980’s,” say Rich Poirot, a scientist with the state’s air pollution control division, who, along with former UVM professor Tim Scherbatskoy, helped found the cooperative, first “on the back of a napkin in Leunig’s,” and then with a white paper presented to both UVM and the state.

“Tim would be doing acid rain studies, while nearby the state air quality and water quality people were doing their own work,” Poirot says. “We were working separately but we all ended up going to the same meetings.

“It was that experience of not quite having our stuff together or coordinating as much as we’d like that led to the idea: Wouldn’t it be nice to have one organization that took down the barriers between the research activities at the university and the monitoring by state?” he says, since there was much overlap of goals and interests.

Seventeen years later, with support from Senator Patrick Leahy and numerous other people at UVM and statewide, the result is a structure that provides access to long-term forest study sites for numerous researchers, facilitates information sharing, archives data and also provides small grants to forest researchers.

But perhaps more unusual than forging a long-term partnership between the state, UVM and the federal government is the time scale the cooperative considers: that of the forest itself. At the VMC’s annual meeting last week, researcher Charlie Cogbill suggested that the appropriate starting point for understanding Vermont’s “baseline forest” is the sprouting of the forest itself at the end of the last age. And, in this era of one-year grants and three-year projects, nine researchers from UVM and beyond launched a VMC soils study that they expect to continue for 200 years.

“The point is to mix the best of research — with fresh questions and monitoring — with long-term data to solve problems now and into the future,” Lawson says.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Good Old Vermont?

UVM economist is sounding the alarm near and far about the implications of demographic change in Vermont

By Jon Reidel

Article published October 31, 2007



Art Woolf, associate professor of economics, has turned his keen eye on census data he says indicate a tough road ahead for Vermont. (Photo: Jon Reidel)

Could the Green Mountain State become the Retirement State? Art Woolf, associate professor of economics, says it just might if Vermont can't offset a demographic downturn that could leave it with a severely depleted tax base and inadequate work force.

According to Woolf, the former state economist under Governor Madeleine Kunin, Vermont's demographic good times are rapidly ending. The days of low unemployment and strong state revenues, including a general fund tax revenue growth rate of 35 percent since 2002, are almost over.

Woolf has spent the past three years sounding the alarm through his presentation "Vermont's Ticking Time Bomb: The Economic and Fiscal Implications of Demographic Change." One key message: If Vermont can't get young people to start moving here, income tax revenue will plummet and the entire economy will take a big hit.

"It will take a real tidal wave of demographic change to make it not happen," he says. With a decline in the working-age population set to start in only a few years, Woolf's forecast is fast closing in on a state that already has the nation's second-oldest population.

"The economic consequences of not having an adequate stream of young people moving here to fill jobs are enormous," says Peter Dorn, secretary of the Agency of Commerce and Community Development. "From Brattleboro to Bennington to Swanton to Beecher Falls, people can't fill a number of well-paying jobs. As that becomes known, companies will not come here. Art is very credible and a well-known economist. A lot of us

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already knew what was going on, but Art's research put some numbers to it and confirmed what some of us suspected."

How can we respond?

Woolf, whose forecast is based primarily on census data and his own economic analysis, says the options to curb the trend are limited. He's unflinchingly candid and about what he sees as a set of facts that will be very difficult to overcome.

"You've got an irrepressible force hitting an immovable object, and it ain't gonna be pretty," he says.

The immovable object comprises fewer school-age children; a shrinking labor pool that starts to decline in 2011 and will continue sinking until at least 2030; increased demands for government services by an older populace (40.7 average age); high cost of living; a slowdown in tax revenue; and a spending trajectory that is not sustainable under the current tax structure. Already the bulk of the tax burden falls on a small number of wealthier individuals, Woolf says. Twenty-thousand residents who make \$100,000 or more annually pay 50 percent of the state's income tax.

Woolf says Vermont can respond in three ways: by cutting school spending per pupil, raising taxes or getting more people here to work. "All three of which are unlikely to happen, but one must," says Woolf. "You've got to make a big dent in one these three areas for my forecast not to come true."

Dorn, chair of the New England Governors and the Eastern Canadian Premiers, an organization designed to respond to the regional issues, says Gov. Jim Douglas has been working on the issue for many years and established the "Pursue Vermont" initiative to begin addressing demographic concerns. "A demographer told me that if we don't figure it out in five years you may as well turn the lights out," he says.

In an effort to keep the lights on, Dorn and others in state government and the private sector have been focusing on convincing working adults who either grew up or went to college in Vermont to move back. "We've been reaching out to people who have knowledge of the product," he says. A "Pursue Vermont" survey of 2,800 such individuals revealed that 67 percent of them would move back to Vermont, with 93 percent saying that finding a place they can afford to live is the key factor.

"Pursue Vermont" has sponsored recruiting events in Boston and other cities to try to attract potential workers to Vermont jobs that exist but aren't being filled.

UVM also vulnerable?

Woolf has recently extended his research to New England. The six-state region will grow more slowly than the rest of the country, with Vermont projected to add the fewest number of people (about 100,000 over the

next 20 years) between 2000 and 2030. Wolf attributes Vermont's slow growth to an aging population; having the nation's lowest fertility rate; and few new residents. He also points to the state's lack of immigrants, which has fueled growth elsewhere. Immigrants may begin moving here in greater numbers, he says, as a shortage of younger boosts demand for service-industry employees.

One of the demographic crunch's far-reaching effects could be a squeeze here on campus. UVM recruits primarily from the Northeast, where the school-age population will decline significantly. Woolf has provided the university administration with figures that have prompted the university to widen recruitment efforts to areas of the county where population estimates aren't as dire.

Woolf is characteristically blunt about Vermont's prospects in the upcoming demographic competition.

"A lot of states are doing the same things to try and get people to move there," says Woolf. "We can hope a lot of luck from entrepreneurs for job creation, but the high cost of living here can't continue here, nor can taxes continue to increase. We're already one of the top five highest taxed states (as a percentage of income). We need to follow the first rule of holes: stop digging if you're in one."

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INTERview: Dr. Frederick Morin

The UVM College of Medicine's new dean discusses the excitement and challenge ahead

By Edward Neuert

Article published October 23, 2007



Dr. Frederick Morin looks ahead to the challenges and possibilities that come with his new role as dean of the College of Medicine. (Photo: Raj Chawla)

Among administrators new to the university this fall is Dr. Frederick Morin, 17th dean of the College of Medicine. Before beginning his position at UVM in August, Morin served as the A. Conger Goodyear Professor and Chair of Pediatrics in the School of Medicine and Biomedical

Sciences at the University of Buffalo and chief of pediatric service for Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo and Kaleida Health.

Earlier this fall, Morin spoke with Vermont Medicine about his hopes and plans for the College of Medicine. That interview appears here in slightly different form as part of the view's ongoing "Campus Transitions" series, which features some of the faculty, administrators and students assuming leadership roles this semester.

THE VIEW (VERMONT MEDICINE): First of all, welcome to the campus. Do you have any general thoughts on assuming the deanship you'd like to share?

DR. FREDERICK MORIN: Thank you. I'm honored to be entrusted with the leadership of the College of Medicine. I feel that my entire career, from faculty member to division chief to department chair to interim dean, has prepared me for this position. It truly is the capstone of my career. I intend to provide vision, leadership and solid management for the college while fully appreciating that the accomplishments made here will be grounded in the efforts of the faculty and staff. I realize that I still have a lot to learn about our institution, its people and its culture, so that decisions we come to about the future of the college are inclusive and can be implemented in a timely fashion.

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What are some of the things you are most excited about as you look forward?

One thing that seems to me to be a tremendous and rare asset is the compact nature of the campus. You can walk from the office of the hospital CEO, to the office of the dean of the College of Medicine or any other school, to the office of the university president himself in just a few minutes – I traveled just such a route more than once when I was visiting UVM earlier this year. This physical proximity makes it much easier for people to work together and collaborate. As a physician and researcher, I've often noticed that some of the best consults are hallway consults. Many medical schools wish they had the ability for close collaboration with their clinical partner, or with other colleges in the university – we already have that in Vermont, and that's a huge asset. I'm also very gratified that there is such a tight relationship with our clinical affiliate, Fletcher Allen Health Care. The affiliation agreement we have is written to make a tight interaction. That close relationship means, for instance that you can take the research strength of the college, translate that to the bedside and the community, and you can make a real difference in health care.

Looking at the missions of the college, what are your brief thoughts on the challenges ahead?

I'll obviously have to just touch on the highlights here. To be the best we can be, we must grow our research base, better translate that research into clinical application and enhance our educational programs.

On the research side, we will do this by developing critical mass in selected strengths. To accomplish this we must plan and align our strengths with those of our colleagues in the other colleges, in Fletcher Allen Health Care and potentially at Maine Medical Center. This goal will lead us to expand our faculty and research space. And we need to continue our work to get a Clinical Translational Science Award (CTSA) from the National Institutes of Health. Less than half of all medical schools are going to get one, but I think we have the pieces in place to make it happen. We have a strong General Clinical Research Center, and this is the foundation. The CTSA will allow us to take our research into the community in a great way. In the end, it's not good enough to only publish a human study, you ultimately want to get that new therapy accepted in the community. In an analogous program, we will need a serious effort to recruit a new leader for, and retain our NIH designation as, a comprehensive cancer center.

In education, we already have a strong program with an innovative curriculum, and a nationally recognized prominence in primary care teaching. One way we'll build on this record is by creating a full simulation center here at UVM. I believe such a center will become essential for the teaching of exams, procedures, teamwork and more to students, residents and practitioners from all areas of health care. We are, in large part, responsible for offering the brightest and most

motivated students from Vermont with an opportunity to earn a medical degree within the state, and for them and others to come to our medical center for residency training and join the more than 2,600 physicians now practicing in the State of Vermont. I hope that, by solidifying and expanding our partnership with the Maine Medical Center, we can provide much of the same service there. Finally, through the “umbrella” programs that are being developed across disciplines in the basic sciences, we can move to the next level in our training of biomedical investigators for our university, our state and the nation.

Read other installments from Campus Transitions: [INTERview: Kesha Ram](#) and [INTERview: Robyn Warhol-Down](#).

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Human Resources News: Flex Spending, Flu Shots

By The View Staff

Article published October 29, 2007

New enrollments and renewals of flexible spending accounts for 2008 must take place during November, the program's open enrollment period. Barring a change in employment or family status, November is the only period UVM employees can elect to participate in the program.

Flexible spending can result in lower taxes by allowing employees to designate pre-tax dollars on certain health and dependent care expenses.

Forms and information are available at [UVM Benefits Flexible Spending Page](#). Employees can also call 656-3322 for information.

The benefits office, in conjunction with the university's wellness program, is sponsoring flu shot clinics for faculty and staff on Thursday, Nov. 15 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Faculty and Staff Lounge on the fifth floor of Waterman Building, and Friday, Nov. 16 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Coolidge Dining Room, Waterman. The fee is \$12; shots will be given while supplies last on a first come, first served basis.

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Pediatrics Team Leads National Families-As-Partners Initiative

By Jennifer Nachbur
Article published October 31, 2007

UVM pediatrics faculty members Judith Shaw and Dr. Joseph Hagan presented the third edition of the American Academy of Pediatrics' "Bright Futures: Guidelines for Health Supervision of Infants, Children and Adolescents" at an Oct. 29 press briefing at the 2007 National Conference and Exhibition of the American Academy of Pediatrics in San Francisco.

Bright Futures is an innovative initiative that recognizes that children benefit most when their parents and pediatricians work together. Health professionals know about child health care and growth development, but parents have the day-to-day experience that makes them experts on their children. The program aims to provide both child health professionals and families with the tools they need to ensure optimal health care for children.

Shaw, research assistant professor of pediatrics, Hagan, clinical professor of pediatrics, and Dr. Paula Duncan, clinical professor of pediatrics at UVM, served as co-editors of the Bright Futures guidelines. Shaw and Hagan also served as co-chairs of the Bright Futures Steering Committee and Duncan as co-chair of the Bright Futures: Pediatric Implementation PAC. In addition, Shaw serves as executive director (Duncan is the youth health director) of the Vermont Child Health Improvement Program (VCHIP), a nationally-acclaimed population-based health services research and quality improvement program in UVM's Department of Pediatrics.

VCHIP works in partnership with a number of agencies and organizations, including the Vermont Department of Health and the National Initiative for Children's Healthcare Quality (NICHQ). As leader of NICHQ's Improved Partnerships project, VCHIP is helping other states build VCHIP-like programs that establish statewide partnerships to improve children's health care.

In the Bright Futures approach to preventive care, families are partners with their health care providers. Between AAP recommendations, parental concerns and community health needs, well-child visits are crowded with topics to address and screenings to conduct. Doctors, nurses and parents may feel torn about what to do in such a limited amount of time. The guidelines the UVM team edited will help pediatric practices get organized to deliver needed services, which will, in turn,

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free up time for developing relationships with families.

More specifically, Bright Futures provides child health professionals with priorities that need to be addressed for each of the 31 age-based health supervision visits from birth to age 21. There will also be a pocket guide available soon that families can use to prepare for visits and learn about how to keep children and adolescents safer and healthier.

Information: [Bright Futures](#).

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Men's Awareness Week Features Leading Sociologist, Hip-Hop Film

By The View Staff

Article published October 29, 2007

The annual Men's Awareness Week runs from Nov. 5-7, and includes talks from two leaders in the field of men's studies and a screening of a hip-hop documentary hosted by two UVM professors.

On Monday, Nov. 5 at 7 p.m., sociologist Michael Kimmel will discuss "Planet Earth: Women and Men on Campus in a New Millenium." Kimmel, a professor at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, is author of more than 20 books and speaks frequently about men and masculinity. His talk will broadly survey the changes in relations between women and men over the past few decades and highlight some current issues of importance. Kimmel will speak in the Livak Ballroom, Dudley H. Davis Center.

On Tuesday, Nov. 6 at 7 p.m. Jason Laker will give "The State of Manhood Address: Sex, Booze and Rock n' Roll." Laker is associate vice-principal and dean of student affairs at Queen's University. He studies higher education, student affairs and masculinity. Laker will speak in the Birch Room, Davis Center.

On Wednesday, Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. Sherwood Smith, director of the UVM Center for Cultural Pluralism, and John Gennari, director of the ALANA U. S. Ethnic Studies Program, will host a screening of *HIP-HOP: Beyond Beats and Rhymes*. The documentary is billed as a "loving critique" by its maker, a fan who is troubled by sexism, homophobia and representations of manhood in rap music culture.

The events are sponsored by the Counseling Center and the UVM Program Board.

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Diego Rivera's Daughter Will Speak at Latino Heritage Month Event

By The View Staff

Article published October 30, 2007

Guadalupe Rivera Marín, a political and charitable leader in Mexico and daughter of the Mexican master artist Diego Rivera, will speak Tuesday, Nov. 6 at 5:30 p.m. in Memorial Lounge, Waterman Building. Her talk is part of the university's celebration of Latino Heritage Month.

Rivera Marín will discuss "The Legacy of Diego Rivera and the Importance of Public Art in the World Today." She is a former diplomat, senator and member of congress in her country. She is also a long-standing director of the National Institute for Historical Studies on the Mexican Revolution. She is the founder and board chair of the Diego Rivera Foundation, an international organization based in Mexico City that is dedicated to preserving Rivera's legacy through the advancement of research, conservation, conferences and support of contemporary public art and artists.

Her books include *Frida's Fiestas* and *Diego Rivera the Red*.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Exhibit Showcases Work by Robert Flynn

By The View Staff

Article published October 31, 2007

Constant Gardener, an exhibit of the work of recently deceased assistant professor of art and art history Robert Flynn, is on display now through Friday, Nov. 16 in the Frances Colburn Gallery, Williams Hall.

An opening reception with words from artist David Packer will take place in the gallery on Thursday, Nov. 1 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Packer, a longtime friend and former collaborator of Flynn's, will speak about the drawings, paintings and sculptures that span the last seven years of Flynn's work, including recent pieces on display for the first time.

Flynn had just begun his position at UVM when he died unexpectedly of a heart attack on Sept. 23. Prior to arriving in Vermont, he taught drawing, painting, printmaking and art history at several institutions in Florida, including Barry University, Florida International University and New World School of Art after earning his master of fine arts degree at Rutgers in 1992.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Landscape Architect to Discuss Development Density

By The View Staff

Article published October 31, 2007

Landscape architect and author Julie Campoli, principal of Burlington-based design company Terra Firma Urban Design, will deliver a lecture titled "Visualizing Density" on Thursday, Nov. 1 at 6 p.m. in 104 Aiken Building. Her visit is sponsored by The Rubenstein School and the Vermont chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Campoli, who is trained in both planning and design, is author of *Above and Beyond: Visualizing Change in Rural Areas* and the forthcoming *Visualizing Density*, which examines the need for "good" density to combat sprawl in American communities.

A reception will follow Campoli's talk in 105 Aiken.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Art Show Highlights Indian Womens' Resistance

By The View Staff

Article published October 31, 2007

A collection of paintings, photography, poetry and videos from South Asian women survivors of violence, their families and their artist allies debuts at UVM on Monday, Nov. 5.

The exhibit, "Re-Drawing Resistance: South Asian Women's Stories of Survival and Resistance," is on display through Nov. 19 in the Livak Fireplace Lounge, Dudley H. Davis Center. An opening reception for the show will take place Wednesday, Nov. 7 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in the lounge.

About 45 percent of married women in India experience domestic violence, and every six hours a young married woman is burnt alive, beaten to death or driven to commit suicide. The traveling exhibit seeks to explode the commonly held view of South Asian women as the victimized other, and to explore the intersections and collisions of discourses about women.

The art displayed comes from the New York City-based organizations, Sanctuary for Families and Sakhi for South Asian Women, and two Indian-based organizations, International Foundation for Crime Prevention and Victim Care (PCVC) in Chennai, India and Point of View in Mumbai. The UVM exhibit is sponsored by the ALANA Student Center, the Women's Center and the women's and gender studies program.

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October 31, 2007

Publications and Presentations

Dr. **Paula Duncan**, clinical professor of pediatrics, medical director of the Area Health Education Centers program and youth health director of the Vermont Child Health Improvement Program, is a co-author of an Oct. 2007 *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine* article titled "A Family-Centered, Community-Based System of Services for Children and Youth With Special Health Care Needs."

Rocki-Lee DeWitt, dean and professor of management in the School of Business Administration, gave a presentation to the Rotary Club of South Burlington on "Competitive Requirements for a Global Marketplace: Public Policy and Personal Implications" on Oct. 25, 2007.

Major Jackson, associate professor of English, appeared on the Boston University radio show *World of Ideas* on Oct. 7. The program featured excerpts of a poetry reading and discussion with Jackson and Polish poet and translator Tomasz Rozycki. Streaming audio of the show is available at [World of Ideas](#) - a weekly one-hour show produced at WBUR 90.9 FM, Boston's NPR radio station. Each week, *World of Ideas* speaks with the best and brightest thinkers from Boston University and the Boston community at large. Show discussions focus on various topics such as current events, national and international politics, academic-related issues and public affairs.

Awards and Honors

Dr. **James Michelson**, professor and associate residency program director in the department of orthopaedics and rehabilitation, received the Leonard Goldner Award from the American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society at the organization's Annual Summer Meeting in Toronto, Canada in July 2007. Michelson received the award with co-authors from Penn State College of Health and Human Development in recognition of their paper titled "Contribution of the Flexor Hallucis Longus to Axial Loading of the 1st Metatarsal," which was named the outstanding basic-science paper presented at the meeting.

Three members of the College of Medicine faculty received awards at the Vermont Medical Society's 194th Annual Meeting on October 20. Dr. **John P. Fogarty**, associate dean for primary care and professor of family medicine, received the 2007 Distinguished Service Award. The highest honor that the Society can bestow on one of its members, the

Distinguished Service Award is given on the basis of meritorious service in the science and art of medicine, as well as for outstanding contributions to the medical profession, its organizations, and the welfare of the public. Dr. **Allan Ramsay**, professor and vice chair of family medicine, received the Physician Award for Community Service, which recognizes a Vermont physician who has compiled an outstanding record of community service apart from his or her specific duties as a physician. **Judith Shaw**, research assistant professor and executive director of the Vermont Child Health Improvement Program in the department of pediatrics, received the Citizen of the Year Award, which recognizes a non-physician resident of Vermont who has made a significant contribution to the health of the people of Vermont.

October 24, 2007

Publications and Presentations

Michael Williams, graduate student in neuroscience, is lead author of an Oct. 15 *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science* Online Early Edition article titled "An essential role for cortactin in the modulation of the potassium channel Kv1.2." Co-authors on the paper include **Anthony Morielli**, associate professor of pharmacology, and graduate students **Jonathan Markey**, and **Megan Doczi**. Williams was a laboratory technician for Morielli at the time the paper was produced.

Burton Wilcke, associate professor and chair of medical laboratory and radiation sciences, served as co-director and was on the faculty for the first George Washington University-Association of Public Health Laboratories International Institute for Public Health Laboratory Management at George Washington University, on Oct. 15-26. The seminar was designed for senior public health professionals who are responsible for planning, managing and directing national public health laboratory systems. Under the WHO International Health Regulations passed in 2005, member countries are committed to developing core surveillance capacities to detect, report and respond to public health risks of international concern. Strong national public health laboratory systems are essential for addressing global health challenges such as the HIV/AIDS pandemic, XDR-TB and a possible avian influenza outbreak. Over 20 laboratory leaders from 12 countries in South America, Africa and Asia were in attendance.

Barbara McIntosh, professor of business administration, was invited to participate in an expert panel on the aging labor force and older workers issues Oct. 4 at the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C. Supported by the Sloan Foundation, the policy and research recommendations made by the panel will be published by the Urban Institute.

Alan Wertheimer, professor emeritus of political science and senior research scholar in the Department of Bioethics at the National Institutes of Health, gave a public lecture sponsored by the Edmond Safra