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Playwright and director Rachel Perlmeter is orchestrating an interdisciplinary homage to Marguerite Duras that includes a class, symposium and site-specific production of *India Song*. (Photo: Rob Evans)

Though notorious for her difficult and abstract work, Marguerite Duras, the late French novelist, playwright, screenwriter and director, best-known as author of *The Lover* and *Hiroshima Mon Amour*, has captured the attention of a sizeable cross-section of the UVM community this fall.

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THE WEEK IN VIEW

November 2, 7 p.m.
Panel: "The Coming Pandemics: Myth or Reality" with Nils Daulaire, president and chief executive officer of the Global Health Council, Christopher Grace, head of infectious diseases at Fletcher Allen Health Care, and Sharon Moffat, interim commissioner of the Vermont Department of Health. Ira Allen Chapel, Information: 656-2918

November 3, 4:35 p.m.
Colloquium: "Pendulums, Taffy and Hurricanes... A Battle with Chaos" with Christopher Danforth, assistant professor of mathematics and statistics. Kalkin, 004. Information: 656-3166.

November 5, 7:30 p.m.
Concert: Vermont Winds Ensemble. UVM Recital Hall. Information: 656-3040

November 6, 7 p.m.
Lecture: "Digging Guatemala: A Student's Adventure" with junior anthropology major Brennan Gauthier. Fireplace Lounge, Living/Learning Center.

November 7, 6 p.m.
Exhibit: "The Pharmaceutical Culture" featuring the artwork of J.C. Pierstorff. Allen House Multi-Cultural Art Gallery. Information: 656-7790

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Duras Across the Disciplines

By Amanda Waite

Article published Nov 01, 2006



Playwright and director Rachel Perlmeter is orchestrating an interdisciplinary homage to Marguerite Duras that includes a class, symposium and site-specific production of *India Song*. (Photo: Rob Evans)

Though notorious for her difficult and abstract work, Marguerite Duras, the late French novelist, playwright, screenwriter and director, best-known as author of *The Lover* and *Hiroshima Mon Amour*, has captured the attention of a sizeable cross-section of the UVM community

this fall.

India Song, the Duras play later turned into a radio production and film (before being released as a play again), is the subject of an interdisciplinary endeavor involving a team-taught course; a site-specific theatrical production; faculty from the departments of English, history, music and theater; a symposium; a film screening; and an original musical composition. Somehow, all of these components were pulled together by guest artist and project curator Rachel Perlmeter.

Perlmeter, who first dreamed of staging this complicated play during her time as a Fulbright Scholar in Russia, seized the opportunity when Jeff Modereger, chair of the theater department, asked if there were any creative projects she would like to take on while lecturing at UVM. Perlmeter says she knew this was her chance to stage *India Song*, because, "You can only do it at a university. To have all of these minds coming at it from all these directions is so important."

The avant-garde play examines the discordant tones of colonial India — the lavish lifestyle of the colonial class in direct juxtaposition to the impoverished native population — experiences Duras transposed from her childhood in Indochina (now Vietnam). The play's form adds to its complexity: a majority of the text is read by off-stage voices, raising questions about narrative authority and confusing the boundaries between audience and actors.

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The 1975 film that Duras collaborated on, which will be shown in a Monday, Nov. 6 public screening at Merrill's Roxy Cinema at 7 p.m., is equally difficult. "I fully expect to see people walk out of the screening," says Perlmeter, but adds that the wonderful thing about this interdisciplinary project is that "we have the opportunity to contextualize it."

Context and conversation

In that vein, Perlmeter invited two faculty members to co-teach a fall course with her. Abigail McGowan, assistant professor of history, taught the first four weeks of the course, focusing on the historical context of colonialist India. Hilary Neroni, assistant professor of film studies, followed for the next month with an examination of French film and a close analysis of the film version of *India Song*.

Ryan Winnick, a student in the class who will play a narrative voice in the play, says the interdisciplinary nature of the course was crucial to understanding such a complicated work of art. "If I weren't in the class and didn't have a historical understanding, I would have no idea how to come at this part," she explains. "I really loved coming at Duras' work, which is focused on abstract themes like desire, from a historical perspective."

In addition to McGowan and Neroni's contributions to the project, a Nov. 6 and 7 symposium featuring a Burack President's Distinguished Lecture by Jane Winston, associate professor of French and gender studies at Northwestern University, aims to further contextualize the play and Duras' work as a whole.

Playing with convention

In the final weeks of the course, Perlmeter, who previously attended each session as a participant, sitting in the semi-circle of chairs with the students, and raising her hand to add her thoughts to the enthusiastic comments of the class, now leads the conversation. She does so through the use of readings and lectures that focus on studying drama in preparation for the culmination of the project: the staging of the play on Dec. 1, 2 and 3 in Mann Gymnasium on Trinity Campus.

Perlmeter, who will direct the play, was drawn to the gymnasium after teaching playwriting in Mann Hall last spring. "What I like about it is that it's a big, raw, open space," she says. "I also really liked the upstairs/downstairs of the auditorium," an arrangement she hints may prove useful in some of the experimental aspects of her production.

While many of the class participants are involved in the play, auditions were also open to the community. Rahul Mudannayake, a student from Sri Lanka, was encouraged by Bob Pepperman Taylor, dean of the Honors College, to get involved and has since been cast as another of the narrative voices in the play. He was attracted to the production for its focus on Eastern culture and because, "It's a great mix of eclectic movement, sound and light. The play is set, in my opinion, in a jazzy

tone; it's non-conformational with other theater."

That jazzy tone, which Duras herself acknowledged, is heightened by Perlmeter's selection of Patricia Julien, assistant professor of music and jazz flutist, as composer of original music for the performance.

Julien says she wrestled with finding the right tone during that process. "There are times when I felt the theme was just right," she says, but was later concerned that "there might be a little too much sweetness when the play itself is quite dark."

In a collaborative process, Julien and Perlmeter transformed the theme to reflect the "pained and broken" element of the story, adding "inflections of madness," by-products of the era's imperialist politics.

The play's politics, which Perlmeter says are more mercurial than didactic, make it compelling today. Written during the Vietnam War, *India Song* contains "found language" overheard by Duras at anti-war protests, which she then employed in the cacophonous street scenes. In her version, Perlmeter adds Middle Eastern language to those scenes. "Having the sound of Arabic as one of the languages on the street to me is very meaningful and important," she says

Originally concerned about finding an ethnic population in Burlington to produce such a cosmopolitan piece, Perlmeter, who moved from Brooklyn, has been amazed at the richness of ethnicity her Vermont production has achieved. "There's a hunger for it and a depth of sophistication," she says about UVM and the larger community. "I'm really pleased."

To learn more about the project, including the schedule of events for the symposium, screening and play, visit the project's [website](#).

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UVM HOMEPAGE

The Holy Grail of Organics

By Joshua Brown

Article published Nov 01, 2006



Not for eating: researcher Lorraine Berkett examines a trap designed to look like the real thing (at least to pests). (Photo: Josh Brown)

The plum curculio is a nasty weevil: pimply, snout-nosed and hump-backed, “not to mention ill-mannered,” contends agriculture specialist Guy Ames from the National Center for Appropriate Technology. By itself, this pest has been enough to drive many New England apple

growers away from trying to grow their fruit organically — that is, without using synthetic pesticides.

And it’s not alone in chomping on apples. Following the curculio, a bestiary of apple maggots, Oriental fruit moths, tarnished plant bugs, thrips, leaf miners and mites hungrily prowl. If that’s not enough, mildew, fireblight, bitter rot and other diseases attack many varieties of apples; the regional favorite, Macintosh, is particularly susceptible to scab.

“It is extremely difficult and prohibitively expensive to produce organic tree fruits in eastern North America,” concluded Cornell University’s orchard expert Ian Merwin in 2001. And apples seem the worst of the lot.

Or you can look at it like Lorraine Berkett does.

“It’s the holy grail of organics,” she says, walking toward a razor-straight row of new apple trees at the UVM Horticulture Farm off Shelburne Road. “If we can produce marketable organic apples in New England, we’ll be doing something that many growers say is impossible.”

That’s exactly what this professor of plant and soil science aims to do. With a \$657,000 grant from the US Department of Agriculture, she and her colleagues are leading the only significant university research effort in New England studying organic apple farming, and one of only a few such efforts nationwide.

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Two paths...

Berkett stops and points to two stands of apple trees, both still green against a curtain of orange and yellow maples. Here, this past spring, she, along with assistant farm manager Terry Bradshaw and others, started planting and grafting five varieties of apple trees on a nearly two-acre research plot.

In one block, 250 branchless stems, with trunks wrapped in white tape, are connected to aluminum rods and wires, stretching like leafy telephone poles across the field. In the other stand, 216 older trunks, many Macintosh, have been cut with a chainsaw and new varieties grafted onto each stump. These two stands represent the two major paths farmers could choose in pursuing organic apples: start with new trees or cut old ones and add disease-resistant stock on top.

With Honeycrisp, Zestar! (yes, the exclamation point is part of the name), Ginger Gold, Macoun and scab-resistant Liberty varieties — plus the two age categories, various soil amendments, irrigation piping, and differing spacing between trees — the researchers have a menu of variables that they can use to study the effects of organic treatments.

At the top of the treatment list is kaolin clay. The same stuff that's used in toothpaste, this inert wettable powder leaves a protective film on the leaves and on the apples themselves. Discovered in the 1990s and accepted for organic use in 2000, it appears to control or at least fend off many apple insect pests — including plum curculio.

"We absolutely white-washed these," Bradshaw says, fingering the rough grey-green leaves of one of the older trees. And while you might expect that the clay would inhibit growth, research shows that this non-toxic coating actually increases photosynthesis by keeping trees cool on hot summer afternoons that would otherwise trigger the tree to shut down because of heat stress.

"If you look on Google Earth you can see our white trees from satellite pictures," he says. And though the clay doesn't kill insects, it seems that the strange appearance and surface of the kaolin-covered trees is confusing — or at least annoying — enough to pests that they simply stay away.

Combining this treatment with others, like sulphur and natural oils, the researchers expect that at the end of three years they'll have enough data — and enough apples — to see if the impossible might be overcome. "In these new blocks we're going to find out what are the challenges, and do what we have to do to manage these organically and sustainably," Berkett says.

They're not hoping to find a single horticultural sword to strike down the curculio and other attackers. Instead, they are starting what they see as a nearly decade-long effort to test and combine numerous approaches

that all meet the now-federally regulated rules of organic farming, and that would be successful in the marketplace.

“Let’s see if we can do it,” Berkett says. “We’re recording effort and studying the whole system, which includes, of course, the costs and trade-offs of these approaches.”

“There are organic alternatives to all the challenges growers face. It may be a matter of integrating them well,” she says. “But we’ll see what the research shows.”

Dollars to donuts

Only 10 farms in Vermont are listed in the Northeast Organic Farming Association’s directory as producing apples and few of these are, well, ready to plop down on a teacher’s desk.

At Shelburne Orchards, about 6 of their 80 acres of apple trees are managed organically. “We do sell some pick-your-own and press some organic cider,” says Rob Healy who has worked for Nick Cowles, the orchard’s owner, for 15 years. “There are some good ones. But if you hold an organic apple and a conventional apple you can tell which is which. They tend to be smaller, and they’ll be a little off, some scab here. You see where it received a bug bite. That’s a tough sell in the supermarket.”

To see what he means, walk into the produce section of City Market in downtown Burlington and take a look at the apples. You’ll mostly see two types: local varieties grown with synthetic pesticides and organic varieties grown in the state of Washington. You’ll be hard pressed to find a certified organic apple grown in Vermont.

“We sold 35,000 pounds of organic apples last year,” says City Market’s produce manager Matt Landi. And the store sold 90,875 pounds of local apples, he says, but only a few hundred pounds of these were organic. “Local organic apples don’t tend to have the quality customers are looking for,” he says.

“Our goal in this research,” says Terry Bradshaw, “is to grow top-quality fruit for the fresh market. We won’t be satisfied with a whole boat-load of cider apples.”

The root of the problem is rain. New England’s wetter climate, with its numerous insects and diseases, has been a disadvantage to organic apple producers. Washington State produces two-thirds of the nation’s organic apples. “In the West where the largest production areas are essentially irrigated desert there are relatively fewer — far fewer — pests,” notes Guy Ames. The cost of organic apple production in the East has been calculated as three times that of the West. But that doesn’t mean that deserts are inherently the best place to grow apples.

"Here on the East Coast, we have a much broader spectrum of beneficial insects. We could argue that we have the better environment in the long run for organic apples," says Jim Travis a long-time apple researcher at Penn State. "It's going to be science-based experiments like Lorraine's at UVM, combined with grower experience, that show us how."

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Dance Steps Up

By Sarah Tuff

Article published Oct 31, 2006



Paul Besaw, assistant professor of music, works with students in a new dance class offered through the College of Arts and Sciences. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

Paul Besaw, assistant professor of music, knows a thing or two about threatened creatures. Several years ago, as part of Blue Skid Dance, an adult dance company that toured for children, he played a wolf, polar bear, panda bear and possum in a single production. "The

piece was on endangered animals," he says. "The possum wasn't endangered, by the way."

This fall, Besaw is giving new life to a different species: dance at UVM.

The roots of dance at UVM trace back to the 1960s, when Maggi Hayes pioneered a variety of courses and initiatives. Across four decades, Hayes would continue to nurture the dance program, then based in the physical education department within the College of Education and Social Services. In addition to teaching or overseeing instruction in a variety of credit courses from ballet to ballroom to folk dancing, Hayes founded the Orchesis Dance Company and helped create the dance studio still used today in Patrick Gymnasium. Her retirement in 2005 left a gap on campus, with administrators and students seeking a place for dance.

"I was really surprised to not find a formal class when I arrived," says Leila Benabid, a sophomore who grew up practicing ballet. Fellow sophomore Erica Morris managed to discover the Catamount Dance Team. "But the team is based off of hip hop," says Morris. "I wanted something more traditional."

Dancing for credit

Enter Eleanor Miller, who became the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences last year and immediately took steps toward enlivening the arts on campus, including turning dance into an academic program with a full-time assistant professor. Working with Hayes and the music department,

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she shifted the program into CAS and tracked down Besaw. “Paul was a good fit because he understood well how to make dance an intimate part of a liberal arts education,” says Miller. “He understood that CAS (wanted) to offer a program whose courses dealt with not only technique, but also with the history, aesthetics and cultural context of dance.”

So, from stage left — Sacramento, where he’d been teaching dance at California State for four years — arrived Besaw. “We’re still getting used to the cold, and all these clouds!” says Besaw of his wife and infant daughter.

While the sky outside Patrick Gymnasium might be gun-metal gray on a recent Thursday morning, the atmosphere inside the dance studio seems as bright as a bluebird day as 11 women prepare for Besaw’s Modern Dance 1 technique class. Graphic blocks of lavender, peach and baby blue splash against the wall while skylights, mirrors and windows make the space seem even larger than it is.

“It’s a beautiful dance studio — you couldn’t really ask for anything better,” says Besaw, adding that ideally, schools that offer a dance major have two or three studios, along with a separate performance space.

Starting this year, UVM students may minor in dance. “Dance could be offered as a major one day if it looks like there is sufficient student interest,” says Miller. “What I’ve begun to hear from prospective students and parents suggests there is.”

To start off the technique class, junior Gabe Millman begins to play a pair of tabla hand drums while Besaw, wearing loose black pants, an orange-and-steel-colored Starter jacket and bare feet, practices the simple art of walking with his students. “Energize through the center,” he says, “feel the beat through the floor.”

Right place, right time

As a choreographer and dancer, Besaw has also worked with the Jan Van Dyke Dance Group and the John Gamble Dance Theatre and is a founding member of the Misa Table, a performance collective that focuses on original work. Among his current inspiring forces are German choreographer Pina Bausch, the late Anna Sokolow — and Lake Champlain. While Besaw says he’s thrilled by the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts and the city’s cultural beat, outside offers just as much drama. “What I love about Burlington right now is walking outside near the lake,” says Besaw, who grew up in New Hampshire. “It’s great to be in a town where the natural beauty is so readily available.”

Inside the dance studio, Besaw begins to clap his hands as the pace of the drums and the dancers picks up. Some of the students giggle as they fumble their steps, but Besaw doesn’t miss a beat. “We’re working on clarity now,” he says. “Spatial patterns and focus of direction.”

Just before this class, sophomores Morris and Benabid have agreed that

the word they'd use to describe Besaw is "experimental." As they glide across the hardwood floors, it's quickly apparent that the experiment of renewing dance is yielding results.

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UVM Awarded Endowment Gift, Scholarship Grant from Osher Foundation

By The view Staff

Article published Oct 30, 2006

The Bernard Osher Foundation of San Francisco has awarded the university a \$1 million endowment gift for the statewide Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, which is based in Continuing Education, and a \$50,000 Reentry Scholarship Grant for scholarship support for reentry students.

The \$1 million endowment award is the culmination of four years of successive grant funding from the Osher Foundation that established the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute in eight communities throughout Vermont.

"It is so rewarding to receive the endowment from the Osher Foundation in recognition of the hard work that has gone into the creation of UVM's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute," says Director Deborah Worthley, who was responsible for securing the grant and endowment funding and creating Vermont's network of Osher Institutes, one of more than 90 the Osher Foundation has funded to date.

The Institute offers non-credit intellectually engaging programming for older adults in local communities at an affordable cost, providing a means for Vermont's older residents to learn simply for the joy of learning and personal fulfillment. Local volunteers provide leadership for each institute, developing programs — over 80 each semester — that appeal to their members. Membership has grown from 90 to over 600 statewide since it was established in 2002.

"Volunteers are at the heart of the Osher Institutes here in Vermont," says Worthley. "The success of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute in Vermont is based in the grassroots nature of the local steering committees that recognize the value the Osher Institutes bring to their communities and older residents."

The foundation's \$50,000 Reentry Scholarship Grant will provide financial assistance to students ages 25-50 seeking to complete a bachelor's degree at UVM.

The funding allows UVM to offer scholarship funding specifically to adult students for the first time. "This is great news for UVM and adult students who face financial challenges as they seek to complete their bachelor's degree," says Beth Taylor-Nolan, director of student services and

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enrollment management for UVM Continuing Education. "We see many adult students who are unable to complete their academic goals because they run out of financial resources."

The scholarship funding was secured by Worthley and Taylor-Nolan and will be administered through UVM's Financial Aid and Scholarship office. The first scholarship awards will be available for the spring 2007 semester. Qualified adult students enrolled in UVM's Guaranteed Admission Program as well as degree programs will be eligible to apply.

The Bernard Osher Foundation was founded by Bernard Osher in 1977. Through the foundation, his philanthropy has benefited a wide range of educational, cultural, and other nonprofit organizations primarily in the San Francisco Bay Area and his native Maine.

Bernard Osher is a successful businessman and community leader, a patron of the arts and education, whose philanthropy has affected countless organizations over the past quarter century. His wife, the Honorable Barbro Osher, Consul General of Sweden in San Francisco, serves as chair of the foundation.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Vermont Archaeology Symposium Honors Petersen

By The View Staff

Article published Oct 27, 2006

An all-day symposium titled "New Discoveries and Current Issues in Vermont Archaeology" honoring the legacy of Professor James Petersen will begin Friday, Nov. 3 with registration at 8:30 a.m. in Memorial Lounge, Waterman Building. The event is free and open to the public.

Morning presentations include: "New Perspectives on the Peopling of Vermont," moderated by Giovanna Peebles, Vermont state archaeologist; "Recession of the Laurentide Ice Sheet Across Vermont: Newly Exposed Landscapes for Vermont's Earliest People," Stephen Wright, senior lecturer of geology; "Vermont's Earliest Pioneers: New Glimpses into Vermont's Paleo-Indian Occupations," Francis "Jess" Robinson, UVM Consulting Archaeology Program; "Deep Time in Wobanakik: A Sovereignist Approach to Peopling the Dawnland," Frederick Wiseman, Abenaki Nation and Johnson State College.

At 11 a.m., John Crock, director of the Consulting Archaeology Program, will lead a round-table discussion of the research and legacy of James Petersen, a UVM anthropologist who died in 2005. The panel will be followed at noon with a screening of the film *Against the Darkness: Abenaki Material Culture, Forensics, and Sovereignty*, and a discussion led by Frederick Wiseman.

Afternoon presentations include "Lake Champlain's Sunken Treasures: Thirty Years of Research," Erick Tichonuk, Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, and numerous discussions of cemetery preservation and War of 1812 discoveries in Burlington.

The symposium is cosponsored by the UVM Anthropology Department, UVM Center for Research on Vermont, UVM Consulting Archaeology Program, Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development and Vermont Archaeological Society. A complete schedule and more information is available at [CRVT Petersen Seminar Information](#).

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Seizing the Opportunity of UVM's Accreditation Review

By The View Staff

Article published Oct 27, 2006

With UVM's next accreditation review two years away, Miami University's Paul Anderson, an expert on accreditation and institutional self-assessment, will discuss "NEASC Accreditation: The Opportunity and Challenge," on Thursday, Nov. 2 at 4 p.m. in the Grace Coolidge Room, Waterman Building.

Anderson will discuss ways UVM can use accreditation to accomplish the following goals:

- Foster vital, university-wide discussions of critical issues
- Identify significant opportunities for enhancing the university's effectiveness in teaching, research and service
- Establish responsible priorities among competing demands on budget and faculty time
- Initiate effective action that serves the best interests of students, faculty and staff

Paul Anderson is professor of technical and scientific communication and director of the Center for Writing Excellence at Miami University. He has served on the institution's strategic planning council and chaired the university's Accreditation Steering Committee. Anderson has also served on the task force that developed Miami University's Assessment Plan and on an interdisciplinary team charged with developing methods for assessing the general education requirement's student learning outcomes. He is a fellow of the Society for Technical Communication, the Association of Teachers of Technical Writing, and Miami's Institute of Environmental Science. His publications have won awards from STC and the National Council of Teachers of English. His visit is sponsored by the Provost's Office.

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New York Times Writer to Talk About 'The Disposable American'

By Jon Reidel

Article published Oct 30, 2006

Louis Uchitelle, economic writer for *The New York Times*, will give a talk, "The Disposable American," on Thursday, Nov. 2 at 5 p.m. at the Angell Lecture Center.

Uchitelle, whose main topic will focus on his book, *The Disposable American: Layoffs and Their Consequences*, worked as a reporter, foreign correspondent and editor of the business news department at the Associated Press before joining *The New York Times* in 1980. He's been writing about business, labor, and economics since 1987 and was the lead reporter for *The New York Times* series "The Downsizing of America," which won a George Polk Award in 1996. Uchitelle has taught at Columbia University and was a visiting scholar at the Russell Sage Foundation in New York in 2002-2003.

The talk is sponsored by the economics and sociology departments, the Honors College, and the School of Business of Administration.

Information: 656-3064

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UVM to Co-Host Fifth Annual Tibet Festival

By the view Staff

Article published Oct 31, 2006

The fifth annual Tibet Festival celebrating the cultural traditions of Tibet and Vermont's Tibetan community through music, food, dance and art will be held Saturday, Nov. 4 from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Memorial Auditorium on Main Street in Burlington.

The event features a crafts bazaar with jewelry, decorations and displays, as well as Himalayan foods, including the very popular momos (Tibetan dumplings) and savory noodles. Throughout the day, Tibetan music and folk dances, featuring costumes and songs passed down from ancestors, will be performed by members of the local Tibetan community. In the late afternoon, audience members will be invited to join a traditional Tibetan circle dance to close the festivities.

The festival is co-sponsored by the UVM Asian Studies Program, the Tibetan Association of Vermont and the City of Burlington's Community and Economic Development Office. The event is free and open to the public. All donations and vendor proceeds will benefit the Tibetan Association of Vermont.

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Medical Ethicist to Give Burack Lecture

By The View Staff

Article published Nov 01, 2006

Ruth Purtilo, an incisive and determined champion of patients and medical ethics, will speak as part of the Dan and Carole Burack President's Distinguished Lecture Series on Thursday, Nov. 2 at 4 p.m. in Memorial Lounge, Waterman Building. The title of her talk is "Giving Our Common Humanity a Chance: The Price of Social Marginalization — Disability as a Test Case."

Purtilo is chair of the ethics initiative and professor of ethics at the Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professions. She formerly directed the Creighton University Center for Health Policy and Ethics. Purtilo earned her master's and doctoral degrees in ethics from Harvard University, and completed her bachelor's degree in physical therapy from the University of Minnesota. She is a fellow of the Hastings Center, and past president of the American Society of Law, Medicine and Ethics and the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities. Purtilo received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Harvard Divinity School for "her commitment to healing and persistence in championing the patient as a person." Her areas of sustained research and publication focus on the humanistic dimensions of health care with a focus on practices and policies in long term care and rehabilitation, Alzheimer's disease and AIDS.

A post-talk reception hosted by the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, the Department of Rehabilitation and Movement Science and the Physical Therapy Program, will take place in Waterman Manor.

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The Afro-Semitic Experience Arrives Nov. 9

By The View Staff

Article published Nov 01, 2006

A free, public concert featuring "The Afro-Semitic Experience" will take place on Thursday, Nov. 9 at 7:30 p.m. in Ira Allen Chapel.

The band is dedicated to preserving, promoting and expanding the rich cultural and musical heritage of the Jewish and African diaspora. They interpret music from traditions including gospel, klezmer, nigunim, spirituals and swing, and are as comfortable playing a *freylakh* as they are swinging the blues. Read more about them at [The Afro-Semitic Experience](#). The show is sponsored by the UVM Spiritual and Religious Life Council, Hillel, the Dean of Students Office, the Student Government Association and Student Life.

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Political Economy Conference Will Honor Dean Joan Smith

By The View Staff

Article published Nov 01, 2006

A free, public conference, "Rethinking Political Economy: Class, Race, Gender and Nation," will take place on campus Nov. 10-11. Immanuel Wallerstein of Yale University will give the keynote address on Friday, Nov. 10 at 5 p.m. in John Dewey Lounge, Old Mill.

The conference topics including the impact of globalization on households around the world; differences in family=provisioning strategies and household structure in core and peripheral sectors of the world economy and the impact of class, race, ethnicity and nationality on provisioning strategies; the role of non-wage labor; the impact of welfare reform on poverty and women; and the ways in which scholarship and activism mutually inform each other.

Registration for the conference will take place at 2 p.m. on Nov. 10 in the Multipurpose Room, University Heights North Complex. The conference program is available at [Rethinking Political Economy](#).

Joan Smith, who died in 2004, was a passionate analyst and activist who enjoyed an accomplished career in academia, including 14 years at UVM. She was the university's first director of women's studies and was appointed dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in 1996, the first woman in UVM history to hold that position.

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NOTABLES

November 8, 2006

Awards and Honors

Courtney Ehlers, a graduate student in the Department of Communication Sciences, received a research grant through the Organization for Autism Research's annual graduate research competition. Ehlers' project will examine the quality of narratives of children with autism spectrum disorders compared to children who are typically developing when presented with various types of tasks and when speaking to different listeners. Ehlers' research proposal was among 19 articles submitted in the OAR competition. The data from her study will be presented as a master's thesis in completion of graduate program requirements. It will also be submitted for inclusion at the national convention of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and eventually prepared for publication in a professional journal. Ehlers developed her study with the assistance of Patrica Prelock, professor and chair of communication sciences.

A segment of a course developed by **Kathleen Liang**, associate professor of community development and applied economics, won a national award. The course, "Introduction to Community Entrepreneurship," includes an activity that assembles students into small teams to create on-campus businesses with one dollar each in start up funding. The [Dollar Enterprise](#) activity received the National 3E Learning Best Practice Award. The program is made possible through the support of the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation and is developed and managed through collaboration between Delta Epsilon Chi and the George Washington University Center for Entrepreneurship Excellence.

Liang was also elected to the board of directors for InventVermont, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization with the mission to promote innovation, invention and creativity through educational programs and by providing a mechanism for sharing information among its members and associates. The organization develops and nurtures the capabilities of its members to conceive, develop, patent, market and benefit from the innovation process.

The School of Business Administration's **Vermont Business Center** received a grant from the Vermont Training Program for Manufacturing Businesses, a program of the Vermont Department of Economic Development. The funding provides Vermont manufacturers with the opportunity to attend the VBC's Leadership and Management Certificate seminars, as well as the VBC's Business Coaching Certificate for Leaders

and Managers program, at 50 percent of regular fees. The state training program promotes industrial expansion and encourages the creation and retention of jobs in manufacturing by providing training for new and existing businesses. The VBC taps the faculty and curriculum of the UVM MBA program to support the state's growing businesses. To learn more about upcoming seminars, to register for a seminar or to learn about the grant funding, please visit [Vermont Business Center](#).

Publications and Presentations

Sean Field, assistant professor of history, recently published *Isabelle of France: Capetian Sanctity and Franciscan Identity in the Thirteenth Century*. (University of Notre Dame Press, 2006). The book uses a wealth of previously unstudied material to address significant issues in medieval religious history and draw the life of a remarkable medieval woman who is a significant figure in French and Franciscan history.

David Jones, assistant professor of business administration, conducted a workshop at the fall conference for the Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility. The workshop was co-conducted with Paul Millman, CEO of Chroma Technology, who focused on employee-owned companies. Jones' presentation was titled "Effects of Socially Responsible Practices on the Workforce: Benefits for Firms & Their Employees." He discussed research on the link between socially responsible business practices and organizations' financial performance, and covered the reasons that explain this relationship. Jones offered some practical suggestions and concluded with some preliminary findings from a study in which he is testing his ideas.

Mary Malina, assistant professor of business administration, co-authored an article with Hanne Nørreklit (Arhus School of Business, Denmark) and Frank Selto (University of Colorado at Boulder) which has been accepted for publication in *Contemporary Accounting Research*. The study, titled "Relations Among Measures, Climate of Control and Performance Measurement Models," concludes that effective management control does not require statistically significant cause-and-effect relations in a performance measurement model when other factors create a strong climate of control. Malina, along with co-authors Margaret Abernethy (University of Melbourne), Malcolm Horne (Monash University), Anne Lillis (University of Melbourne) and Frank Selto, received the Management Accounting Research 2005 David Solomons Prize. This prize is awarded annually for the best paper in the view of the editors and the editorial board. Their paper, "A Multi-Method Approach to Building Causal Performance Maps from Expert Knowledge," describes a triangulated approach to building the foundations of a causal performance measurement model.

Susan Maude, assistant professor in early childhood special education, presented the results of a three-year research study with colleagues from the University of North Carolina, the University of Colorado and George Mason University at two conferences this fall. The study, "Crosswalks,"

focused on ways to infuse cultural, linguistic and ability diversity within pre-service early childhood personnel preparation programs across North Carolina. The conferences included the Division for Early Childhood in Little Rock in October and the National Association for Multicultural Education in Phoenix in November.

Matthew Wilson, research assistant professor of business administration and research fellow at the Gund Institute for Ecological Economics, has completed guest-editing a special issue in the journal *Ecological Economics: Environmental Benefits Transfer: Methods, Applications and New Directions*. Comprised of 14 peer-reviewed papers, the special issue grew out of collaborative discussions following a workshop jointly sponsored by U.S. EPA and Environment Canada in the spring of 2005 in Washington, DC. The purpose of the special issue is to elucidate the state-of-the-art and science of environmental benefit transfer and to assist practitioners and policy makers in the design and reporting of future transfer research. The articles in the special issue can be accessed via Science Direct at the following address: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/09218009>

November 1, 2006

Awards and Honors

Howard Ball, professor emeritus in political science, **Alexander Stewart**, associate professor in the music department, and **Robert Bartlett**, associate professor in political science, were awarded Fulbright Scholarships for 2006-2007. Ball is spending six months at the University of Szeged in Hungary as a distinguished lecturer on American Constitutional Interpretation. Alexander returned in May after spending ten months in Oaxaca, Mexico conducting research at the Black Mexico Association on "Afro-Mestizo Identity: Music and Culture in Mexico's Costa Chica." Bartlett is scheduled to conduct research and serve as a distinguished lecturer on "International Cooperation in Environmental Policy; EU Institutions and Civil Society Governance in Italy" at Polytechnic Institute of Turin, Italy from February to May of 2007.

Judith Van Houten, director of Vermont EPSCoR and professor of biology, received the 2006 Jackie M. Gribbons Leadership Award from the the Office of Vermont Women in Higher Education. The award is presented to a woman who has demonstrated leadership ability, served as a model and mentor, developed innovative programs, and contributed significantly to the institution and profession.

Robyn Warhol, professor of English has been elected to the Supervisory Board of the English Institute. Located at Harvard University, the English Institute has for decades provided an ongoing discussion of new developments in scholarship, literary criticism and literary theory at an annual conference. For a three-year term, Professor Warhol joins nine other board members in planning topics and selecting speakers at the