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Farmer Louis Rainville in an experimental organic soybean field planted with support from UVM Extension and the Ag Innovations Initiative. (Photo: Ian Hartman)

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THE WEEK IN VIEW

Nov. 9, 7:30 p.m. Lane Series Presents: singer/songwriter Fred Eaglesmith and blues artist Harry Manx. \$25 adults/\$20 students. UVM Recital Hall. [Information](#), [tickets](#).

Nov. 10, 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tibet Festival. Tibetan crafts, exhibits, music and dance. Donations are encouraged. Sponsored by the Asian Studies Program. Memorial Auditorium, Main Street, Burlington. Information: (802) 578-0264.

Nov. 11, 7:30 p.m. University Concert Band. Includes *A Festive Overture* by Alfred Reed, *William Byrd Suite* by Gordon Jaco and more. UVM Recital Hall. Information: 656-3040.

Nov. 12, 12:15 p.m. Women's and Gender Studies and ALANA U.S. Ethnic Studies Brown Bag Lecture: "Preliminary Themes from a White Social Justice Ally Study" with Kathy Manning, professor of higher education and student affairs administration. Marsh Lounge, Billings. Information: 656-2263.

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Soy Futures

A new UVM agricultural innovations effort is developing a new cash crop. The larger goal: transforming faculty ideas into successful in-state businesses.

By Jeffrey Wakefield

Article published November 7, 2007



Farmer Louis Rainville in an experimental organic soybean field planted with support from UVM Extension and the Ag Innovations Initiative. (Photo: Ian Hartman)

Louis Rainville looks uncommonly relaxed for a key participant in a six-month research trial that is coming to a head this late October afternoon.

As a combine harvester roars through Rainville's 16-acre organic soybean field in Highgate, stripping the pods of

their dimpled beans and kicking up a cloud of fibers in the process, Rainville chats amiably with two UVM extension officers.

There isn't much he can do but wait for the combine to finish its test run. When it dumps its payload of beans into a hopper wagon, the results couldn't be more promising. They're plump, healthy looking and free of any stain.

The 575-acre grain and dairy farm Rainville runs with his father was among six in the state to participate in trials this summer designed to test Vermont's suitability for producing food-grade organic soybeans, very few of which have been grown here. The trials were funded through a new program UVM launched in the spring called the Agriculture Innovations Initiative.

Double duty

Ag Innovations' purpose is twofold: to provide funds to help early stage faculty innovators turn their research into business ventures in the areas of agriculture and the environment and, whenever possible, to use Vermont farms as testing grounds for innovations or as suppliers once new ag-related businesses are up and running.

The program is about "assisting economic development in Vermont, while

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meeting the needs of Vermont farmers,” says Mike Vayda, associate dean in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, who helped create the concept in partnership with UVM President Daniel Mark Fogel, CALS Dean Rachel Johnson, UVM's Office of Technology Transfer and the Vermont Center for Emerging Technologies last winter.

The soybean project combines elements of both functions. Research ideas developed by Mingruo Guo, a professor in the Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences, have found commercial application at the Vermont Soy company, which began producing lines of tofu and soy milk in Hardwick six months ago.

Vermont Soy's goal, in turn, is to manufacture its product using organic beans grown in Vermont, rather than sourcing most of them in Canada and the Midwest, as it now does. The trials were designed as a first step in ramping up the Vermont production the company is looking for.

Wanted: innovation

Ag Innovations falls under the banner of another new UVM program designed to accelerate technology transfer at the university, UVM Ventures, and follows the funding model of that more encompassing initiative.

Ag Innovations provides funds to faculty in two stages: a small seed grant to help faculty develop business plans or prototypes and, for those who qualify, a larger innovation grant to help take an idea or company to market.

In addition to the organic soybean project, Ag Innovations is funding three other faculty. It helped Aleksandra Drizo, a research assistant professor in the Department of Plant and Soil Science, develop a business plan and prototype for a patented technology that removes phosphorous from waste water. Drizo's fledgling company, PhosphoReduc, has a prototype installation in St. Albans and has attracted the attention of a major investor.

Jean Harvey Berino, chair of the Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences, has received both seed- and innovation grant funding to develop V-Trim, a behavioral weight-loss program based on her National Institutes of Health-supported research. In partnership with Continuing Education, which is helping develop an online delivery system for the program, V-Trim has one course in place with participants from around the country, and several more set to launch. The program is also funding research by Guo to develop “functional” foods that have physiological benefits that reduce the risk of chronic disease beyond basic nutrition.

Extension's 'dirty fingers'

The early promise of Rainville's test run is no fluke. Rainville's soybeans not only appear to be of high quality — the final verdict will come after further testing in Guo's lab — his field yields more than two tons per acre, a very high rate of production.

Rainville's success is due in part to his experience — unlike the other farms in the trial, he and his father have grown organic soybeans in the past. But it's also a function of the Ag Innovations-funded technical assistance he received from UVM Extension.

Extension officer Heather Darby, along with her colleague Karen Hills, researched soybean varieties that seemed suited to Vermont's climate, settling on five; purchased all the seed for all eight farms in the trial; designed the trials on each farm; helped with planting; trouble-shot during the growing season, helping Rainville find an organic pesticide for the aphid problem he developed, for instance; ran "field days" for farmers that demonstrated good growing techniques; and pitched in at harvest time.

Darby was "right there," Rainville says. She not only did the research "she got her fingers dirty."

Darby and Hills also helped connect farmers with Vermont Soy, giving them a ready market to sell to.

"A lot of farmers are interested in new crops," says Hills, "but there's a level of risk associated with them. You're (afraid you're) not going to have a market, and your crop might not make the grade. A part of what we do is to help farmers get past that hurdle."

Rainville appears past it. At about \$900 a ton, compared with \$450 to \$500 a ton for corn, food grade organic soybeans are a cash crop and then some. Rainville thinks he could devote 50 or more acres to the crop in future seasons.

Like Darby and Hills have done with farmers, Guo has played a key role at Vermont Soy, helping the company develop manufacturing processes that result in fresh, small batch soy products, which stand in sharp contrast to mass-produced versions with a shelf life of a year or more.

Using beans grown in the state is central to company's made-in-Vermont branding strategy. Vermont Soy hopes to buy all of the beans Rainville has produced this summer.

"I'm proud of UVM," says Todd Pinkham, Vermont Soy's co-owner. "This is what a land-grant school is all about. It's how you utilize what's in your state. That's a pretty neat thing."

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Fascinating Rhythm

Visiting professor's music blends influences, cultures

By Scott Sutherland

Article published November 6, 2007



Musical mentor: Sowah Mensah working with a UVM student in advance of a Nov. 14 concert featuring his composition. (Photo: Sally McCay)

At any given moment, whatever style of music Sowah Mensah happens to be listening to is the style he likes best. Orchestral, traditional African, hip-hop, prog-rock — no matter. "I don't hold back on any music," he says. "It's all enjoyable."

Mensah, a composer who teaches at Macalester College and the University of St. Thomas, both in St. Paul, Minn., is a James Marsh Professor-at-Large at UVM. He has made a career of cross-pollinating contemporary orchestral music with as many disparate styles as he can, an approach he's taken since he first began writing music as a schoolboy growing up in the west African nation of Ghana. He soaked up Bach and Beethoven at home — his father was an organist, and his mother played the viola — as he explored the vast traditions of African song and dance at school and in his community.

The mix of influences created a percussionist and singer who also plays saxophone, clarinet, flute and tuba. Mensah has performed jazz (with Don Cherry and the late Max Roach, among others), classical (with the Minnesota Orchestra) and made his Carnegie Hall debut in 2000, performing as a soloist on David Fanshaw's "African Sanctus." He's also performed calypso, reggae, high-life, rumba and a host of traditional African styles. He's a fan of bluegrass, and admits a fondness for Led Zeppelin and Deep Purple.

"The key is whether you've made the effort to understand how the music is put together," says Mensah of his open-ears policy. "If you have, then you're good to go."

Innovative orchestration

On Wednesday, Nov. 14, the University Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Michael Hopkins, associate professor of music, will perform Mensah's

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"Agoo," part of a program that also includes Bernstein's "Symphonic Dances" and Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition." The free concert is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. in the Grand Maple Ballroom, Dudley H. Davis Center.

"'Agoo' is a Ghanian word, a call — if you want to enter someone's house, you can knock or you can say, 'agoo,'" says Mensah, who was commissioned to write the work by the St. Paul Civic Symphony, which premiered it in 2004. The piece is written for full orchestra and will feature a quartet of soloists: percussionists Sowah and Tom Toner, associate professor of music; Patricia Julien, assistant professor of music, on flute; and Russell Flynn, a senior jazz studies major, on electric bass.

"The piece is really rhythmically driven, and the harmonies are used in slightly different ways than you're used to hearing in most western music," says Toner, who nominated Mensah for the Marsh professorship. "The sections of the piece are organized around Ghanian dances, and the rhythms are more syncopated than those we'd hear even in a jazz setting."

Mensah originally wrote the quartet parts to be performed by "Speaking in Tongues," an ensemble he plays in or with that includes a *pipa* — a Chinese stringed instrument — instead of a flute. The shortage of Vermont pipa virtuosos, however, required substitution of a flute, a move Toner says "didn't faze Sowah a bit."

Cultural crossings

The percussionist first visited campus last spring, when the orchestra did its first run-through of "Agoo." In addition to his performance with the university's orchestra, Mensah says his upcoming visit will include talks to music and anthropology classes, and work with Toner on a Mensah-composed piece that the university's concert band (which Toner directs) may perform in the spring.

Mensah says he's also in the early stages of organizing "a big African festival" of music and dance at UVM two or three years from now, an event he hopes would include "as many members of the college community as possible." This kind of boost to the university's intellectual and cultural life is exactly what the James Marsh Professor-at-Large program, which currently includes 16 non-resident faculty from around the country, is about.

Mensah is glad to participate, bringing his love of music and culture here and elsewhere. When Mensah first arrived in Minnesota, more than 20 years ago, he says it was tough to find a college anywhere in the country where African music was being performed. Now, he says, traditional African music is played everywhere, and not just on university campuses.

"I did an African xylophone residency recently at a small elementary school in Indiana," he says. "That was a perfect example of what cultural diversity should be. The more you understand about different cultures,

the better your understanding will be of people, and the better you'll be able to think. Anyone in school now has opportunities that their parents never had to study about cultures, and I think that's beautiful."

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UVM HOMEPAGE

INTERview: Accreditation Efforts

By Jon Reidel

Article published November 7, 2007

It's never easy to take a hard look at one's self, especially publicly. The university is two months into an 18-month self-evaluation study as part of a 10-year accreditation process by New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), one of six regional accreditation agencies nationwide.

The university must submit a 100-page report to NEASC, which will measure how well UVM is pursuing its mission and goals based on 11 criteria ranging from academics to financial resources to an on-site visit. The university community will have an opportunity to provide input at three open forums scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 13 at 3 p.m. in John Dewey Lounge; Wednesday, Nov. 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the Livak Room in the Davis Center; and Wednesday, Nov. 28 at 12:15 p.m. in Memorial Lounge. Comments are also welcome on the [Accreditation Blog](#).

To find out more about the process and why it matters, the view sat down with Jill Tarule, associate provost, and Mara Saule, dean of libraries and learning resources, who are serving as co-chairs of the accreditation process.

THE VIEW: Why should anyone care about the accreditation process when it would be highly unlikely that UVM wouldn't get it?

JILL TARULE: That's a good question. I think the reason to care is because it's an institutional activity that engages at some level every part of the institution. There are a lot that don't. And because it's one of those moments when the university gets the chance to look at itself self-consciously in comparison to a set of standards, and that's always interesting. The tone at the kickoff event was one of excitement. There are so many of us who end up in our own little corners here. There are a lot of people for whom opportunities to get out of their corner to see the bigger view is of interest, and this is a perfect opportunity for that.

MARA SAULE: This is our working home whether we're here studying, working or teaching and we want it to be a high quality place. It's all about ensuring the quality of the place where we work. This is rare because it give us the chance to hold that mirror up, and an external group will then look at us as well. We do planning processes and institutional efforts internally, but this is not just holding up the mirror, but also having that external validation of what we see.

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Will any of the input at the open forum really have an influence on the final product?

TARULE: Yes. This is the time in the study that people have an opportunity at the forums to help us identify the important things to say about UVM; the things that are really shaping who we are and who we can become and the things to be proud of and the things to really attend to. There's no question that this kind of process ends up pulling those things out of the mist. It has a longer term effect, especially now that Dale Jaffe (special assistant to the provost) is working on the university planning council on assessment efforts. The two are deeply connected to each other as they should be.

Can an institutional self-study be compared to a person taking a self-analytical look at themselves in the mirror?

TARULE: If a person did it themselves I think we'd call it psychoanalysis and it would cost \$40,000 (laughs). It really is a chance to create a document... to show where we've come in the last decade, particularly the last five years since Dan Fogel came here. You don't get to do that very often in higher ed or anywhere else in your life.

Has UVM changed much since the last time it went through accreditation?

TARULE: The Governance standard (one of the 11 criteria) is a good example of how much this place has changed over the past 10 years. The Faculty Senate has restructured itself; the board of trustees has restructured itself; we've had restructuring among the colleges; SGA has restructured itself; and so has Staff Council. So you have this story of real change in how we run our governance to do our work.

SAULE: All the processes like the strategic financial plan and the capital plan come into play. So as Jill was saying, governance has been significantly and meaningful restructured, but then we're also looking at what we do operationally and strategically like the strategic financial plan and the capital master plan; all those pieces that have emerged during the 10-year period.

How will you capture the essence and performance of the university in 100 pages based on volumes of information gathered from the campus community and the seven committees you have tackling the 11 criteria?

SAULE: Clearly these 11 standards and what they cover could be a 1,000-page tome. That really forces us and the committees to put a discipline around what we're doing and not to focus so much on endless description of what we're doing, but really how well are we doing and what are we going to do in the future. We want the final 100-page report to be in one voice, so we'll have to merge the committee reports. I use the weaving analogy: we've got the committees out there working on the warp, but

we'll be doing the weft, and it's not just the voice but also the themes that echo through the focus groups and open forums and institutional themes that the president has set. There will also be a brief period of public comment where people from the state of Vermont, parents, alums and others can weigh in.

Are we stronger in some areas than others?

TARULE: Yes. Like any place would be, but I think we have strength in all areas. There really are no surprises in this. Anybody that knows the place pretty much knows the answers to the questions.

SAULE: We've been doing focus groups, and we ask them to give us sound bites ([see blog](#)) and they echo each other. The themes are very similar.

TARULE: These comments lead me to confidence. I will be very surprised if there are any big surprises. We'll learn some nuances that we absolutely wouldn't have otherwise. Some will be nuances of strengths and some will be in little corners that have dust bugs in them.

Is this pass/fail or do we get a grade?

TARULE: There are gradations that include continued accreditation, deferment, probation and termination.

SAULE: For us not to be accredited there would need to be a pretty big dust bunny in that corner (laughs). Even though our accreditation isn't really in question, we want to really do a first class job in the process and on the 100-page document, and all the data we have along with it. It's high on the provost's priority list that we don't just pass, but that we get an A-plus even though there's technically not a grade.

How important is it to be honest about your true status? Do you reveal all your flaws?

TARULE: The letter that ultimately gets written often has observations on areas of concern. There are some you would prefer to have in the letter and some you would prefer not to. But I think we know what they are; I really do. Any one of us could sit down and make a list pretty much of what they are. Candid is the word that we use over and over again. If you are not candid, a visitor can pick it up in about a nanosecond. We all know what gloss is.

SAULE: It's a matter of being candid and clear and also engaging because those external audiences know about universities in New England and UVM, so we want to really tell our story in a way that's true and engaging. It should also be a living document about where we're going, not just a self-study that we pass and then goes on a shelf. And that's what NEASC would want to see as well.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

New Learning Communities Set to Enroll Students

By Kevin Foley

Article published November 7, 2007

Modern universities produce almost as many acronyms as scholarly papers, so it's no surprise that a new one — PBLC — debuts on campus this spring. It stands for "problem-based learning community," and the idea is to bring skills from different disciplines to bear on social problems through intense multidisciplinary clusters of courses.

Graduate or undergraduate students participating in one of the five new PBLCs will enroll in between two and four courses organized around a theme. Participants will look at an issue from a variety of vantage points, and most of the communities have a service or out-of-classroom component. (The Provost's Office has seeded each PBLC with start-up funds to support these efforts.)

The idea is innovative — enough so that President Daniel Mark Fogel says PBLCs should be a "signature" of UVM's academic excellence — the course clusters are planned, and the 16-odd involved faculty are excited. What remains now is enrolling students. And that, says Nancy Welch, associate professor of English and coordinator of the "Communicative Competence in a Multicultural World" PBLC, will require getting the opportunity on the "radar screens" of advisers and students ahead of the enrollment period beginning later this month.

What will students get in exchange for their commitment? Fogel is aiming for a life-changing experience. Caroline Beer, associate professor of political science and one of the developers of the "Globalization, Gender and Violence: The Women of Juárez, México" PBLC, is more restrained, but she's excited about the power of the idea.

"Especially in broad programs like Latin American studies, interdisciplinary connections aren't necessarily made for students. You take a group of classes, then you make the connections on your own," Beer says. "In this group of classes, we're going to help them make the connections... I think they are going to come away not only with a deep understanding of globalization, but a deeper sense of scholarly approaches and a rich cultural experience."

The specific focus on the murder or disappearance of more than 1,000 women around the Mexican border town of Juarez engages universal issues like globalization and the status of women, Beer says, but it grounds those issues in a place. "We wanted something really specific.

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You need to have a real problem," Beer says. "We're all interested in globalization, borderlands and women, and this problem has a specific place that you can visualize where it all comes together."

Brief outlines of the five PBLCs for spring follow. Contact involved faculty for descriptions and prerequisites.

Globalization, Gender and Violence: The Women of Juárez, México:

The women of Juárez will serve as a node of intersection in the study of politics, arts and literature. The PBLC comprises Political Science 174B, "PBLC—Latino American Politics" (Beer); Art History 196F, "PBLC—'Latin Lovers:' Latinos in Film" (Adriana Katzew, assistant professor of art); and Spanish 296C, "Latin American Women and Globalization" or World Literature 115 Z2 in English (John Waldron, assistant professor of Spanish); and a one-credit seminar.

Communicative Competence in a Multicultural World: How can we recognize the complexity of daily communication and all of the ways in which people are called on to read, write and speak in a society that is both diverse and multi-literate? The community will investigate this question through three linked classes plus a service-learning partnership with Burlington's King Street Youth Center working on "King Street Voices," a blog using audio and video storytelling, art, music and writing. Courses comprise Communication Sciences 162/English 103, "American English Dialogues" (Julie Roberts, associate professor of communication sciences); English 112, "Investigating Literacy" (Nancy Welch, professor of English); and Anthropology 28, "Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology" (Emily Manetta, assistant professor of anthropology).

Identity and Reconstruction of the Southern Sudan: The PBLC will interact with the local Sudanese community, especially the creators of the New Sudan Educational Initiative, a non-governmental organization that recently won a competitive world bank grant of \$200,000 to build a school in the southern Sudan. The PBLC comprises EDFS 206B, "Comparative Education" (David Shiman, professor of education); Anthropology 220, "PBLC: Development and Applied Anthropology" (Robert Gordon, professor of anthropology); and Political Science 71B, "Comparative Political Systems" (Peter Vondoepp, assistant professor of political science).

Culture, Health and Healing: Health Challenges in the 21st Century: The goal is to explore the cultural, economic, and political forces that contribute to personal, national and international health challenges. These issues might include alcohol and tobacco abuse, family planning and abortion, and sexually transmitted diseases including HIV. The PBLC comprises two of the following three courses and an independent study: Anthropology 174B, "Culture, Health, and Healing" (Jeanne Shea, assistant professor of anthropology); Political Science 127B, "Congressional Process" (Eileen Burgin, associate professor of political science); or Economics 230B, "Health Economics" (Sara Solnick, associate professor of economics).

The Obesity Pandemic: A National Problem with a Local Solution: To educate students about obesity and transdisciplinary solutions for it, the PBLC will use a school-based community approach (via the local food nonprofit VT Food Education Everyday) to understand the role of the larger food environment in the obesity pandemic. It combines an understanding of the food system with an applied public communications course to help bridge the disconnect between what VT FEED is teaching in schools and the environmental and nutritional realities children face. Courses comprise Nutrition and Food Sciences 095B, "Farm to Table: Our Contemporary Food System" (Amy Trubek, assistant professor of food and nutrition sciences); CDAE 195B, "Public Communications Media" (Tom Patterson, lecturer of CDAE and extension associate professor); and a one-credit service learning component.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

'Full Prof' Lectures Continue With Silica Chemist

By The View Staff

Article published November 6, 2007

Christopher Landry, professor of inorganic chemistry and materials science, will deliver the second lecture in the College of Arts and Sciences' new Full Professor Lecture Series, which honors faculty recently given that status.

Landry will discuss "Silica: In the Environment, in the Lab, and in You" on Thursday, Nov. 8, at 3:30 p.m. in Memorial Lounge, Waterman. A reception will follow.

Silica is unavoidable. But why is it so prevalent, and why does it cause health problems in some forms while in others it is harmless? How is it used industrially, whether directly (as a product) or indirectly (in the manufacture of another product)? The talk will attempt to present general answers to these questions from a chemical standpoint. Landry will use current research on a relatively new type of solid called mesoporous silica as an example of the benefits of this ubiquitous material.

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How the U.N. Came to N.Y.

By The View Staff

Article published November 6, 2007

How did the United Nations end up in New York? And what role did Vermont's Warren Austin, U.N. ambassador and one of the state's most illustrious foreign policy figures, play in the process?

Neal Rosendorf, an assistant professor at Long Island University and a fellow at the Center on Public Diplomacy at the University of Southern California, will elaborate on these questions Thursday, Nov. 8 at 7:30 p. m. in Memorial Lounge, Waterman.

His talk, titled "Vermont Diplomat, Global Struggle: Warren Austin and the United Nations Permanent Headquarters Debate, 1945-1946," is part of the Center for Research on Vermont's seminar series.

Information: [CRVT Events](#)

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Box City, Empty Bowls and More Mark Hunger and Homelessness Week

By The View Staff

Article published November 7, 2007

Sunday, Nov. 11 through Thursday, Nov. 15 is Hunger and Homelessness Week at UVM. For the third year, UVM organizations, including the Pottery Co-op, Feel Good, Program Bored, the Campus Kitchen Project, Residents Involved in Service Experiences and Feminists@UVM, will host a variety of events designed to raise awareness about hunger and homelessness.

The schedule follows:

- *Sunday, Nov. 11*, 6 p.m. Empty Bowls. For \$7 and a non-perishable food item, you get soup, bread, a beverage and a handmade pottery bowl. Proceeds benefit the Burlington Hunger Agency. Living/Learning Center Fireplace Lounge.
- *Monday, Nov. 12*, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Gender Equality Button Campaign. Pick up your button supporting pay equality for women and less poverty for all. Olin Atrium, Dudley H. Davis Center.
- *Monday, Nov. 12*, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Hunger Banquet: An interactive program that exposes you to current hunger related issues at global and local levels. \$3 donation. Grand Maple Ballroom, Dudley H. Davis Center.
- *Tuesday, Nov. 13*, 8 p.m. Box City. Join students spending the night outside in boxes to raise awareness about homelessness for a panel of speakers from local organizations followed by a screening of the documentary *Dark Days*. Chittenden-Buckham-Wills Green.
- *Wednesday, Nov. 14*, 8:30 p.m. Student Congress on Hunger. Discuss hunger in the Burlington community and possibilities for service learning. Mildred Livak Room, Dudley H. Davis Center.
- *Thursday, Nov. 15*, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fill the Fireplace Celebration. Eat Feel Good grilled cheese and drop off Fill the Fireplace donations. Davis H. Davis Center first floor.

The first 50 people at each event will receive a free voucher for a Hunger and Homelessness week T-shirt. T-shirts will be handed out at the week's concluding Fill the Fireplace Celebration.

Information: [Community Service Programs](#).

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Firecracker Contest Continues at Royall Tyler

By The View Staff

Article published November 7, 2007

The Department of Theatre's performances of *The Miss Firecracker Contest*, a comedy by Beth Henley, will continue to run through Sunday, Nov. 11 at the Royall Tyler Theatre.

A southern comedy about one young woman's efforts to win her local beauty contest and escape her hometown, *The Miss Firecracker Contest* was the first play Henley wrote after her Pulitzer Prize-winning *Crimes of the Heart*. Peter Jack Tkatch, associate professor of theatre, directs the UVM rendition.

Visit the [Department of Theatre's website](#) for the schedule and ticket information.

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Med School Alum to Deliver Davis Lecture

By Communications Staff

Article published November 7, 2007

Dr. Richard Wait, chair of surgery at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, Mass., and a 1978 UVM College of Medicine alumnus, will deliver the 2007 John H. Davis Lectureship in Surgery on Nov. 8 at 4 p.m. in the Davis Auditorium at Fletcher Allen Health Care.

The lecture, "The Clinically Inapparent Adrenal Mass: Current Concepts and Controversies," is presented by the College of Medicine's Department of Surgery. Wait, who also serves as clinical professor of surgery at Tufts University School of Medicine, is a surgical oncologist whose clinical expertise includes hepatobiliary, pancreatic, and minimally invasive adrenal surgery. Prior to joining Baystate, he served as chair of surgery at SUNY Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn, N.Y., where he established the institution's division of vascular surgery.

Named in honor of John H. Davis, M.D., who served as chair of surgery from 1969 to 1989, the Davis Lectureship recognizes Dr. Davis' legacy of excellence in clinical care, research and education

For more information about the lecture, visit [Davis Lecture](#).

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Cultural Events Celebrate 'Dancing Chickens'

By The View Staff

Article published November 7, 2007

Two days of events featuring a carving demonstration, film screening and public lecture celebrating the folk art of Oaxaca, Mexico will take place Friday, Nov. 9 and Saturday, Nov. 10 on the UVM campus.

Luis Vivanco, associate professor of anthropology, who regularly leads UVM study abroad trips to Oaxaca, will lecture on "Folk Arts in Oaxaca, Mexico" on Nov. 9 at 4 p.m. in John Dewey Lounge, Old Mill. A screening of the short film "The Dancing Chickens of Ventura Fabian" presented by its creator Nina Hasin will follow.

On Nov. 10, master carvers Ventura and Roberto Fabian, who are featured in the film, will demonstrate their work from 1:15 to 3 p.m. in 101 Fleming Museum.

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2007 Hilberg Lecture Set for Nov. 12

By The View Staff

Article published November 7, 2007

Michael Kater, distinguished research professor emeritus of history at York University, Toronto, will deliver the 2007 Raul Hilberg Lecture "Feigning Resistance to Nazism: The Case of the Singer Lotte Lehmann" on Monday, Nov. 12 at 7:30 p.m. in 103 Rowell Hall.

A leading scholar on National Socialism and the Third Reich, Kater is the author of nine books and more than 200 articles on the history of modern Germany. As a semi-professional musician, he has a particular interest in the role of music in Hitler's Germany, having written most recently about Lehmann, the German opera singer and subject of his Hilberg Lecture.

The lecture series is named for Raul Hilberg, the late professor of political science and internationally renowned Holocaust scholar who passed away on Aug. 4.

Information: 656-1492.

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Neiweem to Conduct Brahms' Requiem

By The View Staff

Article published November 7, 2007

The Burlington Choral Society orchestra and chorus, accompanied by the UVM Concert Choir, will perform Johannes Brahms' *German Requiem* under the direction of Music Professor David Neiweem on Sunday, Nov. 11 at 3 p.m. in Ira Allen Chapel.

Tickets, which are \$20 for general admission and \$17 for students and senior citizens are available in advance at Borders Books and Music on Church Street, online and in person at the [Flynn Center Box Office](#) or at the door.

Information: [Burlington Choral Society](#)

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Publications and Presentations

Tom Simone, associate professor of English, recently published his translation of Dante's *Inferno* with commentary for students and the general reader. The translation strives to present a clear and faithful rendering of the original Italian, and the annotations in footnotes offer succinct glossing of the major historical and cultural references that need to be understood to appreciate the poem. The edition includes a general introduction to Dante and his world, and each of the 34 cantos of the poem is prefaced by an explanatory headnote. The edition also includes diagrams of the geography of Dante's *Inferno*, suggested further readings and a glossary of frequently recurring terms. Simone is currently working on another edition of Dante planned to appear in 2010.

Members of the Department of Animal Science made several presentations at the recent joint meetings of the American Dairy Science Association and Animal Science Association in San Antonio, Texas.

Amanda Kissell won first place in the undergraduate student original research paper competition for her presentation, "Short-interval unilateral frequent milking during early lactation of dairy cows results in acute and persistent increases in milk yield," that she co-authored with Dr. **Thomas McFadden**, associate professor, and graduate student **Emma Wall**. Senior **Shelby Purchase**, working in collaboration with the Miner Research Institute in Chazy, N.Y., presented a paper titled, "An Evaluation of Family Farm Transfer in Vermont," that she co-authored with **Catherine Ballard**, adjunct assistant professor, and **Don Maynard**, a lecturer in animal science. Several other papers were presented by graduate students including **Peter Krawczel** (authored three papers with **Rick Grant**, adjunct professor, and **Russ Hovey**, assistant professor); and **Emma Wall** (co-authored two papers with Thomas McFadden, associate professor). Presenting papers were **Jeevan Patlola** (with **Julie Smith**, extension assistant professor); **Kiera Finucane** (with **Feng-Qi Zhao**, associate professor); and **Chris Hill** (with Grant and Hovey). **Adam Lock**, assistant professor, presented or co-authored four papers with colleagues from Cornell University, University of Nottingham and Nestle. **Matt Waldron**, assistant professor, chaired oral and poster sessions and was judge for the Alltech Graduate Student Publication Competition.

Kevin C. H. Chiang, associate professor of business administration, co-authored an article with Thomas (Xiyu) Zhou that was published in the September/October 2007 issue of *Corporate Finance Review*. The article is titled "Motivations Behind the Acquisition of Mutual Funds." The study

uses a sample of 930 target funds during the 1993-1999 period to investigate the motivations behind mutual fund acquisitions. The study focuses on the acquisitions of advisory rights because these events usually lead to cross-family mergers. With this focus, the study is able to show that economies of scale play a role in the acquisitions of advisory rights. Economies of scale are achieved through reducing distribution and administration costs. The study also finds that target funds tend to have better performance records.

Awards and Honors

Sue Dinitz, UVM Writing Center coordinator and senior lecturer of English, has won the 2007 Ron Maxwell Award for Distinguished Leadership in Promoting the Collaborative Learning Practices of Peer Tutors in Writing. She received the award Oct. 20 at the National Conference on Peer Tutoring in Writing.

Dr. **Melinda Estes**, clinical professor of pathology and president and CEO of Fletcher Allen Health Care, received a Distinguished Alumni Award from Sam Houston State University at a gala event held October 19 during the university's homecoming weekend. The award recognizes graduates who have brought pride to the university through their contributions to business, humanitarian efforts, the medical profession, and public service.

Fourth-year medical student **Alex Mroszczyk-McDonald** was the top male amateur, finished 29th overall out of a field of 1,787 and won his age group in the 2007 Ford Ironman World Championship held in Kona, Hawaii on Oct. 13. The event consisted of a 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike and 26.2-mile run.

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