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Sure hand: Parenting expert Rex Forehand says parenting is a day-by-day process of love, limits, consistency and communication. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

Rex Forehand, professor of psychology and co-author of the popular parenting self-help book *Parenting the Strong-Willed Child*, has spent 30 years helping parents in difficult situations learn how present their best selves to their children.

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Men's basketball associate head coach Jesse Agel thought he'd died and gone to basketball recruiting heaven. There he stood, all alone, watching a recruit draining jump shots in a gym, while dozens of other basketball coaches obviously watched a tournament downstairs.

[Conquering Conflict](#)

In one form or another, conflict resolution seeps into all of Saleem Ali's research, and his first book, which focuses on why indigenous communities support environmental causes in some cases of mining development but not others, is no exception.

THE WEEK IN VIEW

Nov. 12, 6 p.m.
A presentaion on the medical school admissions process with panelists from UVM's College of Medicine, NE College of Optometry, NE College of Osteopathic Medicine, and Ross University School of Medicine. Rowell Building, Room 103. Information: 656-3450.

Nov. 13, 7:30 p.m.
UVM Theatre presents the Tony award-winning play "Metamorphoses," a retelling of the classic myth of Ovid. Royall Tyler Theatre. Information: [Theatre](#).

Nov. 14, 8 a.m.
The Committee of the Whole of the Board of Trustees kicks off a full day of meetings in southern Vermont. The Equinox, Manchester. Information: [Trustees](#).

Nov. 15, 8 p.m.
UVM's all-female acappella group presents its "Cat's Meow Fall Concert." Ira Allen Chapel. Information: 862-3784. [Cat's Meow](#).

Nov. 17, 4 p.m.
Maureen Cummins, in conjunction with a retrospective exhibit of her work, speaks on the making of artist's books using research, found materials, and text. Information: 656-2138.

Nov. 18, 8:30 a.m.

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A group of visiting Tibetan monks are constructing an intricate sand mandala this week in the Billings Round Room. The mandala is open for viewing during business hours — for now. The monks will destroy it on Nov. 14 during a closing ceremony. At 8 p.m. on Nov. 14 at Ira Allen Chapel, a Tibetan Cultural Pageant featuring the monks will offer chant, dance and discussion. Information: 656-6903. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

Professor's Exchange Effort Brings Cultural Group to UVM, Burlington

The power of art to engage young people is the motivating force — and the message — of the Three Rivers Jenbé Ensemble, a cultural education forum that combines traditional West African drumming, dancing and storytelling with community-based social justice education. The ensemble will visit the university Nov. 14 and 15 in conjunction with the U.S. Literacy Politics class taught by Nancy Welch, associate professor of English. Her students actively promote literacy in the Burlington community by serving as mentors for elementary, middle and high school students at the King Street Area Youth Program.

Literacy, says Welch, is not limited to reading and books. Music, dance, theatre and other art forms, which are often viewed as extracurricular elements of K-12 education, may be the most powerful way to engage students in communicative activities, she says. Consequently, Welch's students involve King Street students in activities that range from writing, storytelling and drawing to performing plays and designing their own Web pages.

That repertoire will expand as the Jenbé Ensemble leads drumming and dance workshops for King Street youth, culminating with a joint Jenbé Ensemble/King Street Teen Futures performance in the Living/Learning Fireplace Lounge on Nov. 15 at 6 p.m. The ensemble also

Athletic Attendance on the Upswing

At the bottom of every e-mail sent out by university ticket operations manager Jesse Bridges is a quote from political writer, cultural critic, and public policy consultant Varda Burstyn. It reads: "The rituals of sport engage more people in a shared experience than any other institution or cultural activity today."

Historically, that hasn't always been the case in Vermont, where sports haven't dominated the landscape like, say, basketball in Indiana or football in any of the southern states. But Bridges, along with the rest of the athletic department and university administration, are hoping to change that to some degree. Based on ticket sales so far this year, they have reason to be optimistic.

Season ticket sales for men's basketball are up 52 percent from last season, when the Catamounts led the America East Conference in attendance with an average of 1,955 fans per game. This year's increase comes on the heels of a 130 percent jump in 2002-2003. Bridges, who has sold 480 season ticket packages, including 313 renewals, expects men's basketball to average more than 2,000 fans per game in 3,228-seat Patrick Gymnasium for the first time in school history.

Women's basketball was second in America East in attendance in 2002-2003 with 1,366 fans per game, and among the top 50 nationwide over the past four seasons. As of Nov. 11, there were 440 season ticket holders and 408 renewals.

As for men's hockey, the state's leading sports draw for decades, four consecutive sellouts of 4,035-seat Gutterson Fieldhouse and a steady increase of student tickets distributed, has been an encouraging start to the Kevin Sneddon era. An average home attendance of 3,752 placed the Catamounts 18th in the country last year and fifth in the Northeast behind New Hampshire (6,664), Boston College (6,236), Maine (4,898), and Cornell (3,836). Wisconsin led the nation with an average of 11,430.

So why the big increase in fan interest after 100 years of athletics?

Bridges says the university's recent push to promote athletics through advertisements, give-aways, contests and entertainment at games is the driving force. Spearheading these efforts are recent hires Chris McCabe, assistant vice president of athletic marketing and business development, marketing specialist Kristin Balogh, Athletic Director Bob Corran, Bridges and others.

will give a presentation and performance on "Community Arts Education and Promoting Social Justice" for UVM students and faculty on Friday at 1:30 p.m. in John Dewey Lounge.

Comprising members from ages eight to 50, the Jenbé Ensemble fosters cultural enrichment in children and families through direct experience with the cultural and rhythmic history of a West African civilization. By working to understand the link between Malinke and African-American cultures, parents and children gain valuable insight to their own cultural identity. The group also goes on the road to perform and create collaborative relationships with community organizations.

The ensemble's visit to Vermont is part of an exchange funded by the College of Arts and Sciences and a service-learning grant. Last year Welch and a colleague met with the Three Rivers staff at their home base in Fort Wayne, Indiana to begin discussions about linking community-based social services, such as King Street, with programs in community justice and social change.

One result of that exchange was to invite three ninth-grade students from King Street to spend a day at UVM earlier this month. Although King Street is within walking distance of UVM, Welch notes that few of the center's clients have ever been on campus, and that most see college as socially and economically remote.

Each ninth-grader spent the day with a UVM student; attended an honors economics class for a discussion on the wage gap between women and men in the workplace; and, without getting a sales pitch, got information about financial aid.

The idea, says Welch, is not only to provide students with access to higher education, but to actively involve them in university life. "We want to open up a future for these kids," she says.

For more on the group, which is supported by the Fort Wayne Dance Collective, go to [Three Rivers Jenbé Ensemble](#).

UVM Group to You: 'Quit Smoking'

The Coalition Against Tobacco is striving to make it easier than ever to quit smoking. Those interested in ending the habit can use a self-help program tailored for university students, faculty and staff during the November Great American Smoke Out.

The process isn't necessarily stressful "cold turkey." Support available through the program can make handling cravings easier to ignore and help replace them with healthy pleasures. Learn more on Nov. 13 and Nov. 20 at the Atrium Cafeteria, Cook Commons or in front of Memorial Lounge. Or visit [UVM Tobacco and Smoking](#).

One theme of the UVM campaign is "quit for your family." Organizers invite individuals to take the challenge and make a pledge to quit this month.

With no slight to UVM's marketing efforts, nothing puts fans in seats like winning. Men's basketball is coming off its best season in school history, highlighted by a first-ever trip to the NCAA Tournament. Women's basketball has been strong for years, and with new coach Sharon Dawley, who has already proven adept at recruiting top talent, that should continue.

Bridges says another reason for increased attendance is a new policy that gives students free admission to all athletic events as part of a student fee. Previously, students paid about \$5 per game — no small amount for the financially-strapped student over an entire season.

"It's very helpful that games are free," said junior Jennifer Annas at a recent soccer game. "Because of this I'm planning on coming to many more games this year."

Men's soccer, consistently ranked among national leaders in attendance (25th in 2001 and 36th in 2002), has also managed to increase its fan base, including a season high of 1,624 for its game against the University of North Carolina. Baseball hosted the America East Baseball Championship in 2003 for the first time and set a conference record by drawing 1,128 to its game against Northeastern.

"There's an overall buzz around UVM athletics right now," Bridges says. "New ways of marketing and promoting events are creating a lot of support, especially from students, who should add to the atmosphere and excitement and boost attendance figures (further). The overall experience and entertainment value for the fan is getting much better."

Prof Approaches 'Italian Through Film'

When leading his intermediate Italian classes, Antonello Borra, assistant professor of romance languages, often uses a teaching assistant: Roberto Benigni, the madcap, Oscar-winning star of *Life is Beautiful*.

Showing popular films, Borra says, offer students a vivid, pleasurable glance into the culture of the language they are studying. But he soon discovered that language-teaching resources for Italian films were rare. So he and co-author Cristina Pausini, who teaches at Wellesley College, wrote *Italian Through Film*, which was published last month by Yale University Press.

"Movies supply a gold mine of cultural information," Borra says. "It's not just the language. It's the gestures, the way people dress up, the food that they show. Everything. Recent movies give you an outlook on the culture today. You can use them a thousand different ways."

The book's ten chapters — which cover films including *Cinema Paradiso*, *Mediterraneo*, *Il Postino* and *Bread and Tulips* — seek to excavate that mine of information and probably come close to offering Borra's "thousand different ways" to use film. But, he says, the book's quizzes, vocabularies, role-playing exercises and

Everyone who achieves quitting for one day and one week will be awarded a gift at each of the two accomplished dates for continuing to not smoke. Your name will be posted on campus and published in the *Cynic* to acknowledge your leadership abilities in meeting the challenge.

To make quitting easier, the coalition, which is part of the Center for Health and Well-Being, offers proven cessation techniques, such as free classes, quit-line support, patches, chewing gum and more. If the November campaign is a bad time for you personally to quit, the group suggests drawing on the national "Quitline" at 877-Yes-Quit when you are ready.

Medical Students Plan Auction for Needy Youth

An upcoming auction coordinated by the Schweitzer Fellows in the Class of 2006 at the College of Medicine will benefit the Adolescent Health Clinic for Homeless and Runaway Youth, as well as promote the Schweitzer Fellows program's mission of developing leaders in service.

The second annual auction also supports the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship program, which awards annual one-year fellowships to medical and law students who demonstrate a commitment to addressing the health needs of underserved communities through projects.

Student projects include developing a comprehensive nutrition program for homeless men and women at the Burlington Committee on Temporary Shelter, and creating outreach programs to improve the quality of health care and access for minority and refugee children in Chittenden County. Another student is designing and implementing nutritional education classes for mothers through Burlington's Lund Family Center with a focus on the prevention of eating disorders.

This year's event is scheduled for Nov. 19 from 4-7 p.m. at the Health Science Research Facility on the UVM campus. Dr. Lewis First, professor and chair of pediatrics, and College of Medicine Acting Dean John Evans, will emcee the event.

Some of the items to be auctioned off include kayaking and a gourmet lunch. Additional auction "specials" include dinner for six prepared by Acting Dean Evans and new Fletcher Allen CEO Dr. Melinda Estes, and lunch and golf for four with Dr. First. Online donations for items will be accepted prior to the auction. For more information, or to bid, write elizabeth.padgett@uvm.edu.

background information, do counsel against using films in one particular way: showing complete movies during class.

"That's a waste of time," Borra says.

The book doesn't cover Borra's favorite movies (he loathes *Life is Beautiful*, and isn't a fan of *Cinema Paradiso*, either — *Mediterraneo* and *Bread and Tulips*, however, fare better). Instead, he says, the text's purpose is to compile resources for films that are easy to find, that students are likely to enjoy, and that offer many teaching opportunities and real cultural context.

Borra's fondness for film led him to the project, his first book published originally in English, but his real passion is poetry — both writing it and writing about it. Although his dissertation and first book concerned medieval poets, Borra regularly writes about contemporary works.

"I just love the genre," he says.

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Drumming up consciousness: An English department service-learning project is bringing a community-based African music ensemble to campus. [Click here](#) for full story. (Publicity image.)

New Royall Tyler Production Dives Into Greek Myth

Mary Zimmerman's Tony-award winning play *Metamorphoses*, an evocative reimagining of Ovid's myths set on a spectacular stage dominated by a 520-square-foot pool of water, comes to the Royall Tyler Theatre on Nov. 12.

Peter Jack Tkatch, associate professor of theater, will direct the play. UVM alumnus Bartolo Cannizzaro is stage manager.

"This play become an unlikely hit in New York after Sept. 11," Tkatch says. "I think that's because of the nature of the stories, which are about surviving, going on. They're about things in life that are funny and sad and touching and uplifting and the things that become eternal. The play shows us how how, in the end, life is about change, and everything transforms."

"When people first hear about it, they think it's this staid old Greek or Roman tragedy, but Zimmerman has created a little metamorphosis of her own by contemporizing everything while maintaining the integrity of the myths," he adds.

Performances run Nov. 12 through Nov. 23. Evening performances are Wednesday through Saturday at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday matinees are Nov. 16 and 23 at 2 p.m. For tickets and information, visit the UVM Theatre box office Monday through Friday from noon to 5:30 p.m. on weekdays; call 656-2094 or go to uvmtheatre.org.

Percussion Group's Fall Show Set For Nov. 13

The UVM Percussion ensemble will perform on Nov. 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the Southwick Ballroom. The concert includes a Brazilian bossa nova, a piece by John Cage and several other works.

The seven-member ensemble, which is conducted by D. Thomas Toner, assistant professor of music, is comprised of students. The group's repertoire ranges from the standard to the improvisational.

Information: 656-7774

Book Artist Cummins to Discuss Her Work

Maureen Cummins, a New York-based artist whose medium is the book, will speak on Nov. 17 at 4 p.m. in the Bailey/Howe Library's Special Collections Reading Room in conjunction with a retrospective exhibit of her artist's books currently being featured in the library's lobby.

Cummins's work draws on historical research, intricately layered found materials and text, and meticulous craft. Her books are included in many important private and public collections.

A reception will follow her talk. Information and requested RSVP: 656-2138

Speaker Asks, Does Medical Research Exploit?

Alan Wertheimer, professor of political science, will discuss "Exploitation in Medical Research: What's the Problem?" on Nov. 17 at 5:15 p.m. in Fleming room 101. A reception will follow in the Marble Court.

Wertheimer, who is the author of *Coercion, Exploitation and Consent to Sexual Relations* ([click here](#) for the view's story on this work), is a recipient of the College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Lecture Award, which recognizes outstanding achievement in teaching, scholarly and creative work.

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Publications and Presentations

Caroline Beer, assistant professor of political science, published a book, *Electoral Competition and Institutional Change in Mexico*, with the University of Notre Dame Press in September.

Sean Field, assistant professor of history, published a book, *The Writings of Agnes of Harcourt* on Oct. 30 with the University of Notre Dame Press.

Michael Gurdon, professor of business administration, presented a paper, "The Rise and Fall of Industrial Democracy in the Federal Public Service" at the National Labour History conference held in Brisbane, Australia from Oct. 3-5.

Larry Shirland, associate dean of the School of Business Administration, and **Richard Jesse**, associate professor of business administration, are publishing an article, "Determining Attribute Weights Using Mathematical Programming," in *OMEGA: The International Journal of Management Science* in December. The article was written in collaboration with Ronald Thompson of Wake Forest, a former colleague, and Charles Iacovou of Wake Forest, a UVM undergraduate business alumnus.

Matthew Wilson, a research assistant professor with appointments in the Gund Institute for Ecological Economics and in the School of Business Administration, and **Austin Troy**, assistant professor of natural resources, collaborated with the Massachusetts Audubon Society to estimate the economic value of ecosystem services in the state. Their work was published in the group's recently released "Losing ground: at what cost?" report.

Awards and Honors

Dr. **Naomi Fukagawa**, associate professor of medicine, associate director of the General Clinical Research Center and acting chief of the division of gerontology, has been elected vice president for 2004 and president for 2005 of the National American Society for Clinical Nutrition.

Dr. **Richard Branda**, professor of medicine, was recently elected to the New England Board of Directors of the American Cancer Society.

Douglas Johnson, professor of microbiology and molecular genetics and associate dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, was appointed to the editorial board of the journal *Eukaryotic Cell*.

Dr. **Theodore Marcy**, associate professor of medicine, served as an ad hoc reviewer for the National Cancer Institute Education Study Section in October.

Teaching Activities

Carolyn Bonifield, assistant professor of business administration, hosted two guest speakers for her "Consumer Behavior" course on Oct. 22: Ed Kiniry, president and CEO of Tubbs Snowshoe Company, and Gary Gottfried, the principal of Crosslink Marketing and former vice president of marketing for the Cleveland Browns.

Nov. 5, 2003

Awards and Honors

Major Jackson, assistant professor of English, was among 10 authors to receive the 2003 Whiting Writers' Award, given annually to "emerging writers of exceptional talent and promise." Jackson, author of the collection *Leaving Saturn*, was recognized for poetry. The Whiting awards were established in 1985 by the Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation, a New York-based organization dedicated to the support of the humanities and of creative writing. Past recipients include playwright Tony Kushner and novelist Jonathan Franzen.

Publications and Presentations

The **Early Childhood Teacher Education Program** will be well represented at the Nov. 5-8 conference of the National Association for the Education of Young Children in Chicago. **Jeanne Goldhaber**, associate professor of integrated professional studies; **Dee Smith**, head teacher; **Amanda Terreri**, child development specialist; **Barbara Burrington**, head teacher; and **Laurie Shelton**, child development specialist, will all give presentations in various conference sessions.

Michael Giangreco, research professor at the Center on Disability and Community Inclusion, has published the article, "Working with Paraprofessionals" in the October issue of *Educational Leadership*, a publication of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. The article examines carefully designed paraprofessional support in the classroom to facilitate the effective inclusion of students with disabilities.

Toni Kaeding, adjunct assistant professor of nursing, and **Betty Rambur**, dean of nursing and health science, published an article titled "Rural nurse leadership project" in *Policy, Politics and Nursing Practice*.

Kathleen Liang, assistant professor of community development and applied economics, published an article titled "Economic and Non-economic Drivers of Location Decisions Among Vermont Small Manufacturing Enterprises" in *Business Journal for Entrepreneurs*.

Christina Melvin, clinical assistant professor of nursing, will give a presentation, "A Collaborative Approach to Oral Health in the 21st Century: A Clinical Nurse Specialist's Effort to Address a Clinical Dilemma," at the Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists conference in San Antonio, Tx. The meeting will be held from March 11-13, 2004.

Andreas Nolte, who recently earned a master's degree in German, is the author of a new book, *Mir ist zuweilen so als ob das Herz in mir zerbrach: Leben und Wirk Mascha Kalékos im Spiegel ihrer sprichwörtlichen Dichtung*. The text explores the life and writing of German poet Mascha Kaléko, whose work was banned under Nazism.

Dr. **Matthew Watkins**, professor of medicine, was a co-author of an article in the Oct. 15 issue of the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* titled "A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Trial of Ad5FGF-4 Gene Therapy and its Effect on Myocardial Perfusion in Patients with Stable Angina." The article reported on the latest findings from a multicenter trial examining the effectiveness of "therapeutic angiogenesis" — an intracoronary injection of a gene product designed to promote blood vessel growth in the hearts of patients who suffer from debilitating chest pain due to coronary artery disease.

Oct. 29, 2003

Awards and Honors

The bioinformatics team at the Vermont Cancer Center, led by **Jeff Bond**, research assistant professor of microbiology and molecular genetics, has been chosen to join a pilot group for the National Cancer Institute's new Cancer Bioinformatics Grid. This initiative will create a bioinformatics network among a small group of NCI-designated cancer centers, maximizing researchers' access to bioinformatics infrastructure of all types, including analytical and data management tools, databases, research tissue banks, and other intellectual and physical resources.

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INTERview: Rex Forehand

The psychologist and discusses his 30 years of teaching parenting skills and what those studies tell us about the importance of technique in raising children

By Kevin Foley



Sure hand: Parenting expert Rex Forehand says parenting is a day-by-day process of love, limits, consistency and communication. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

Rex Forehand, professor of psychology and co-author of the popular parenting self-help book Parenting the Strong-Willed Child, has spent 30 years helping parents in difficult situations learn how to present their best selves to their children. The view talked with Forehand about his ongoing research on the effectiveness of that help, his take on proper parenting and the ever-evolving debates on nature vs. nurture.

Forehand joined the UVM faculty last year after a long and distinguished career as a Regents Professor at the University of Georgia and as director of Georgia's Institute for Behavioral Research. Forehand started the Parenting Research Program in the 1970's, and the program, which is ongoing, now incorporates many threads, including long-term evaluation of parenting intervention techniques, the influence of family stress and parental physical illness (including HIV) on parenting and child outcomes, and, more recently, a new intervention program designed to help parents help pre-adolescents avoid high-risk sexual behavior. Forehand and his colleagues are currently applying for a grant for a Vermont project investigating techniques for intervening in families with a depressed parent.

I imagine that somebody learns to be a parent from their own parents. How do you make inroads on habits and expectations that are so fundamental?

When people are teenagers they feel that they'll never treat their kids the way their parents treat them. But of course they so often do. There are strong family characteristics of parenting. The goal for us with kids who are having problems is to be able to say to parents, 'You're not responsible for these problems, but what you're doing is not working, so let's try some other approaches. Let's think about things in a different way and try it.' It's a matter of trying to get parents to begin buying into a new way of doing things.

Does that work? Once there was a readiness to attribute a child's behavior almost entirely to social factors and parents, nurture. But when I was coming over here, someone said to me jokingly, your kids are going to be what they're going to be. You only can do the best you can. Where do you fall on that whole spectrum?

There is this continuum of belief on how much we can impact kids. Thirty years ago, I was at about the 90th percentile thinking that we could change and shape everything. Experience, my own kids, my work, all moved me back

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[Sorrentine Restarts](#)

Men's basketball associate head coach Jesse Agel thought he'd died and gone to basketball recruiting heaven. There he stood, all alone, watching a recruit draining jump shots in a gym, while dozens of other basketball coaches obviously watched a tournament downstairs.

[Conquering Conflict](#)

In one form or another, conflict resolution seeps into all of Saleem Ali's research, and his first book, which focuses on why indigenous communities support environmental causes in some cases of mining development but not others, is no exception.

down. I'm not where your friend is, but I'm far more in the middle than I used to be. We now have models of how kids develop problems. They start out with a difficult temperament. What you bring into the world is an important part of shaping your behavior. Parents are another influence, but only one influence.

You argue that there are some things that parents can do to moderate that "difficulty..."

Based on the data that we have generated and others have generated, parents who have difficult kids can have good results if they intervene with those kids early... the later you wait, the more difficult it is. Our programs involve teaching parents how to be more positive with their kids, how to really tune in. If you do that early enough, our long-term follow-up data shows you can prevent later problems.

The parental skills you teach seem intuitive. Were they more radical when you started 30 years ago?

The pendulum certainly swings back and forth toward the extremes of authoritarianism and relaxed freedom. Our approach says neither extreme is best for kids. You need a warm, nurturing relationship, but within that you need some boundaries. What I think moves what we do beyond the commonsensical is the way the skills are taught. Parents are given a framework for disciplining kids that they can apply to later, different situations. In the therapy teaching sessions, we tell parents what we're going to do, we model it for them, we have them practice it with us, then we bring in the child and they practice it with them, and then we talk about how they're going to bring it home. An article in *Redbook* probably isn't going to change a parent's behavior. You need a comprehensive approach.

Tell me about some of your newer efforts, which involve helping parents help their children avoid risky sexual behaviors and pregnancy...

We have been working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention studying families with HIV infection. We are conducting a large multi-site study where we're teaching parents to talk to their kids about high-risk sexual behavior. This builds off our earlier work. The kids we're working with are in the fourth and fifth grade and there aren't many projects involving talking to kids that young about sex. What we do is first alert parents to what kinds of risk behaviors kids may engage in during adolescence (drugs, alcohol, sex), then we talk about good parenting, being positive, keeping track of where they are, then we talk about general communication and then, finally, on how you communicate to your children your values about sex.

How do you transmit your values to children? Is it just being frank and open and talking about it, or is it more complicated?

It's more complicated. If you're modeling promiscuous behavior, talking isn't going to do much good. You can't have good communication about sex, if you don't have good communication skills to begin with. And good communication about sex won't do much good if you don't have other parenting skills. We teach parents to use 'teachable moments' — it's not sitting down like parents of my generation and saying, 'Here's a book about the birds and the bees, read it and we'll talk.' It's using moments like when something comes on TV and being able to start a conversation and comfortably answering questions.

In your mind, what is a good parent?

A good parent has to change as the child increases in age. A good parent for a pre-school child through the middle of elementary school is a parent who can actually be childlike, a parent who enjoys doing things with kids, who interacts positively, but who has limits — a certain bedtime, mealtime, baths, whatever. There has to be some structure so the child realizes that she acts within limits, but within the limits her parent is so positive and loving. As children get older, they need more decision-making responsibility. For those of us who love control, that's hard to do, but they need choices. Adolescents need their own space to develop. They need some rules to protect them from risk; they still need support, but not in the same child-like way. They're becoming more of an adult, so you need to change.

Every moment of parenting is important, obviously, but is adolescence particularly important? Or is there another moment within childhood where being an effective parent is most crucial in terms of future outcomes?

It may be that dealing with the teenager stuff is the hardest part and the problems are more serious. But to get a child on a trajectory where you were not going to have to deal with future problems, I believe pre-school is a crucial point.

If one wants to learn to be a better parent, what do you advise that they do?

If parents can actually realize that they need to improve, that is a major step in itself. There are materials out there for parents that can help. But it's day by day. At one point in Georgia, when I was heavily involved in teaching parenting skills, my son was about four or five, and I was coming home and not doing anything I was teaching people to do in the clinics. So I hung a tie outside my door, and I would tie it on my wrist when I came home to remind me to do what I needed to do. It took a conscious effort to improve. Parents have to make it a priority in their lives.

theview

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Sorrentine Restarts

Star basketball guard is set to begin another season, after losing a year to his second career-threatening wrist injury

By Jon Reidel



Junior point guard T.J. Sorrentine appears ready to play in his first regular season game since breaking his wrists in a scrimmage last October. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

Men's basketball associate head coach Jesse Agel thought he'd died and gone to basketball recruiting heaven. There he stood, all alone, watching a recruit draining jump shots in a gym, while dozens of other basketball coaches obviously watched a tournament downstairs.

Agel looked on as the 5-foot-11 inch kid from Pawtucket, R.I. continued to make feathery jumpers and showcase NBA-level

dribbling skills. Agel knew he had to bring the player to Burlington. He turned to UVM assistant coach Curtis Wilson and said: "Lock the doors. And don't let anyone in here to see him."

That was the first meeting with the player, who is now a junior at UVM. The second time, Agel saw T.J. Sorrentine put himself through a self-imposed workout that included three hours of plyometrics, shooting, dribbling, weight training and other forms of strength training.

"It was incredible to see," Agel says. "I knew right then he had all the attributes we liked, all the intangibles. He has the rare combination of talent and the ability to push himself to the extreme. He is never satisfied — ever."

Sorrentine's determination led coaches to stick with the player even after he broke both wrists after the end of his senior season in high school. The gamble paid off: Sorrentine became only the third sophomore in conference history to be named America East player of year. But after that season, Sorrentine fell during the pre-season team scrimmage and again broke both of his wrists, missing all of last year's NCAA tournament run. Now, with a new regular season beginning on Nov. 17, Sorrentine is coming back again after watching his dream season segue into an injury nightmare.

"I was shocked and scared when it happened," he recalls. "I just couldn't believe it was taken all away so quickly."

Another comeback

Friends and family back in Pawtucket, knew that it wasn't all taken away, and never questioned Sorrentine's ability to make another comeback, says Dave Borges, a sportswriter for the *Pawtucket Times* who covered Sorrentine in high school.

"I know it had to be killing him to sit out, but he's a tough kid," says Borges, who considers Sorrentine among the top 20 greatest players in Rhode Island

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Rex Forehand, professor of psychology and co-author of the popular parenting self-help book *Parenting the Strong-Willed Child*, has spent 30 years helping parents in difficult situations learn how to present their best selves to their children.

[Conquering Conflict](#)

In one form or another, conflict resolution seeps into all of Saleem Ali's research, and his first book, which focuses on why indigenous communities support environmental causes in some cases of mining development but not others, is no exception.

prep history. "I don't think anyone around here ever doubted that he had the fire to come back."

But the second return would prove tougher than the first, as Sorrentine battled bouts of depression and started falling out of the routines that had transformed him from a very good prep player to one of the best college point guards in East.

"I got depressed and started gaining weight," Sorrentine says. "I'm usually real selective about my diet, but I started eating at Burger King and other fast food restaurants and put on 10 to 12 pounds."

Adding to the self-doubt was the performance of the basketball team in his absence. The Catamounts steamrolled to the school's first ever NCAA tournament appearance without their star point guard. They seemed to be doing just as well without him. But Sorrentine sucked up his pride, remained supportive, and took advantage of the layoff by studying opposing players from his newfound seat on the bench.

"I always believed that the only way to get better was to play," Sorrentine says. "But I retract that statement because I learned a lot from watching our guys play and seeing their tendencies. I know more about how they play and the best spots to get them the ball."

Sorrentine says other positive things grew out of his year off the court. His relationship with his father, Tom "Saar" Sorrentine, who was his high school coach, improved. He noticed a difference in the way his father, who drives four hours to Burlington to watch his son play every game, then back home in time to teach the next morning, dealt with his injury the second time.

"In high school I think it was harder for him to differentiate between father and coach," Sorrentine says. "He was upset when I broke my wrists the first time because I think he felt like I was messing around. He was very supportive this time. Our relationship has always been good, but now it's the best it's ever been. He's a great father."

When the casts came off last season Sorrentine says he couldn't move his wrists. The once automatic motion of shooting a basketball was an insurmountable task. After a few weeks, however, he began dribbling and, eventually, shooting.

"I remember walking out of the hospital with him with casts on both hands," recalls UVM head coach Tom Brennan. "But I never questioned his drive to come back. God didn't smile on him by giving him a bunch of great athletic gifts, but he did give him the best gift, and that was a heart like Secretariat."

Return of the workhorse

David Hehn, a 6-foot-5 guard from Sarnia, Ontario who adeptly handled Sorrentine's point guard position in his absence, knew his friend was back in full force as soon as practice started in the fall. "Playing with a guy who practices as hard as T.J. makes everyone better," Hehn says. "You just don't want to let him down. It's so hard to match his level of intensity."

Sorrentine's comeback wasn't complete in the minds of many observers until he played in the same game he broke his wrists in one year earlier — the Green and Gold scrimmage on Oct. 24. Sorrentine says he had a dozen or so voice mail messages from friends and his mother and aunt who playfully lobbied him not to play.

Fans saw that Sorrentine was back after he set up a teammate for an easy basket, and then nailed a deep jumper on the next play.

"It's so hard when you love something that much and it's taken away from you that quickly," he says. "Now I savor every minute of it like it's the last time I'll ever get to play. I'll always be smiling when I play."

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Conquering Conflict

By Jon Reidel



Assistant Professor Saleem Ali, shown here teaching an environmental conflict resolution course, completed his first book dealing with the success and failure of environmentalists trying to convince indigenous communities not to sell rights to their land to mining companies. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

For Saleem Ali, assistant professor of environmental studies, conflict is a daily occurrence. He's spent the majority of his professional life studying confrontations, why they occur, and most importantly, how to resolve them. He teaches a class on environmental conflict resolution, writes extensively on the topic, and gives speeches on the art of resolving disputes. In one form or another, conflict resolution seeps into all of his work.

Ali traces his fascination with conflict to his upbringing in Pakistan and the United States by parents with vastly different mechanisms for dealing with conflict. He describes his mother, a professor of political science and international law, as more directly confrontational than his father, who taught political science at UMass-Dartmouth. Ali's recently published first book, *Mining, the Environment, and Indigenous Development Conflicts* (University of Arizona Press), which examines environmental conflicts between mining companies and indigenous communities and the factors that lead to those conflicts, is appropriately dedicated to his parents.

"With profound love and gratitude to my mother, Parveen S. Ali, who taught me the virtue of principled confrontation, and to my father, Shaukat Ali, from whom I learned the value of pragmatic conciliation," reads the dedication.

Tragically, Ali's father passed away just a few weeks before the book was released in late October.

"He was really looking forward to seeing the book, but at least he saw a draft manuscript," Ali says. "My mother was more confrontational and he was more conciliatory on everything. This book brings those two elements together. There's no doubt that they've had a major influence on my work. The dedication really means a lot to me."

Framing the issue

The 254-page book, which is based on Ali's doctoral dissertation in the Department of Urban Studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, examines resource conflict and environmental impact assessment by asking why indigenous communities support environmental causes in some cases of mining development, but not others. Ali uses four case studies from the U.S. and Canada to get at the answer. They include the Navajos and Hopis with Peabody Coal in Arizona; the Chippewas with the Crandon Mine proposal in Wisconsin; the Chipewyan Inuits, Dene, and Cree with Cameco in Saskatchewan; and the Innu and Inuits with Inco in Labrador.

Through these case studies Ali examines why under certain circumstances

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[Sorrentine Restarts](#)

Men's basketball associate head coach Jesse Agel thought he'd died and gone to basketball recruiting heaven. There he stood, all alone, watching a recruit draining jump shots in a gym, while dozens of other basketball coaches obliviously watched a tournament downstairs.

some tribes agreed to negotiate mining agreements on their land, and why some negotiations were successful and others failed. In short, aggressive mining companies appearing overeager to pay off indigenous landowners and attain mining rights are generally unsuccessful. Not wanting to be taken advantage of in ways that are reminiscent of past injustices, some indigenous communities are resentful and unwilling to barter with anyone coming off as untrustworthy. Equally unsuccessful in their attempts to convince indigenous communities not to “sell out” to mining companies are pedantic environmentalists preaching the virtues of the land.

Ali, who avoids taking sides with environmentalists or mining companies and focuses on the art of negotiation and conflict resolution, draws attention to the difficulty that some communities face in trying to attain the dual desires of preserving important natural resources and spurring needed economic development.

“A lot depends on how environmentalists frame the issue,” Ali says. “They can’t just say ‘mining is bad for you.’ There can be a holier-than-thou attitude among environmentalists when it comes to mining that can be detrimental. There’s often an assumed alliance between environmentalists and Native Americans, but that’s often not the case.”

Adding info to an esoteric topic

In his review of the book, Ken Pepion, executive director of the Harvard University Native American Program, writes that “given the relatively sparse research comparing U.S. tribal governments and Canadian indigenous groups in the area of mining development, this is an important contribution to our understanding of the factors influencing decision making among these groups in both nations.”

An initial run of 800 hardcover copies was finished in September with another run expected later in the year before the book is converted to paperback. Hundreds of fliers have been sent out to mining companies and various environmental and academic institutions nationwide. Ali says he hopes the book appeals to a wide variety of people, but is aware that the topic doesn’t necessarily have mass appeal. Given the current state of world affairs, however, the book’s broader focus on conflict resolution could give it a more universal appeal.

“It’s an academic book, but it’s written in a narrative way that I think is readable for most everyone,” Ali says. “It started off as my dissertation, but went through many revisions and peer reviews. It’s the culmination of four-and-a-half years of work.”

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