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UVM HOMEPAGE

It's Complex



Whether on the internet or the Davis Center staircase, mathematician Peter Dodds studies the collective behavior of people. It's one facet of his interest in complex systems and he's one researcher in UVM's Complex Systems Center. (Photo: Bob Handelman)

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[FULL STORY ►](#)

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Comprehending Reading

Comprehension

When Marjorie Lipson, professor of elementary education, started teaching elementary school in Milwaukee in the late 1960s, researchers nationwide began studying and publishing on the mental process of reading. They wanted to know why some students comprehended material better than others. It marked a sea change in a field that Lipson would eventually help lead.

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THE WEEK IN VIEW

Nov. 14. 7:30 p.m. Lane Series Concert: Ethos Percussion Group. \$25 adult, \$20 student. A pre-concert talk with the artists begins at 6:30 p.m. Music Building Recital Hall. [Information, tickets.](#)

Nov. 15. 10 a.m.-noon, 1-3 p.m. Two Sessions of Holiday Floral Arrangements. Create holiday evergreen wreaths and centerpieces. Bring a favorite waterproof container. \$5 event donations plus a \$15 materials fee. UVM Horticultural Research Center. [Information, registration:](#) 864-3073, ldiamond@uvm.edu.

Nov. 18. 4 p.m. Vermont Business Center Public Discussion: "Local Entrepreneurship: How Vermont Can Prosper While The Global Economy Melts Down." Michael Shuman, economist, attorney, author, and entrepreneur. Vermont Statehouse, Montpelier. [Information, registration.](#)

Nov. 19. 4:30 p.m. Canadian Studies Lecture: "Practically Canadian: Jack Kerouac's Unpublished Writings About the North." Audrey Sprenger, Charles Warren Center for American Studies at Harvard University and visiting scholar at the Center For Urban Research and Policy at Columbia University. John Dewey Lounge, Old Mill. Information: 656-1096.

[Rare Book Advocate to Speak on the Future of Books](#)

['Six Feet Under' Actress, Best-Selling Memoirist to Speak Nov. 13](#)

[Poverty and Development Expert to Speak on Microfinancing](#)

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It's Complex

By Joshua Brown

Article published November 12, 2008



Whether on the internet or the Davis Center staircase, mathematician Peter Dodds studies the collective behavior of people. It's one facet of his interest in complex systems and he's one researcher in UVM's Complex Systems Center. (Photo: Bob Handelman)

Peter Dodds is lost. Well, not exactly. He knows he's going to meet me at 2:30 in the Davis Center. But just where? He doesn't remember. And yet, without hesitation, he walks into the atrium, past crowds of people, up the sweeping staircase and directly into Henderson's coffee shop.

There I sit, gulping a latte. How did he figure out where to go?

"It's an interesting kind of search problem," he says. "It just seemed like the right place to go. I figured you wouldn't be hanging out with the students, and that coffee might have something to do with this. I was right."

That kind of intuitive problem solving, he thinks, is not simple to explain and even harder to replicate with a computer. It's way beyond the best artificial intelligence programs, and it would be charitable to say that neuroscience has a firm grasp of how the brain manages such a task. But it's not magical either.

"It's complex," he says.

And complexity lies at the heart of Dodd's research and teaching as an assistant professor of mathematics and statistics. He's part of a group of researchers who make up UVM's Complex Systems Center launched in 2006 by the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences.

"In its most simple form, a complex system is many distributed parts interacting in some distributed way," Dodds says, "giving rise



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[Comprehending Reading Comprehension](#)

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to some interesting, often unexpected, macrophenomena." Take a neuron. Alone, it's a cell that conducts a chemical signal. But billions together, each woven with thousands of links that adapt and change over time, emerge as a brain capable of following a hunch and the smell of coffee.

Big Band, no conductor

While the human brain may be the ultimate complex system, other examples appear everywhere. Take army ants. Despite their name, they have no general, and their queen sends out no instructions. No ant is aiming to get across that gully, and there is no blueprint or traffic light. Yet millions of ants, following the same instinctive rules of individual behavior, can build bridges with their bodies and forage for food along vast efficient highways.

"That's emergence," says computer scientist Maggie Eppstein, director of the UVM Complex Systems Center. "You can't just look at the rules each little thing is following and then describe what is going to happen in the whole system. You've got to run the model or observe the whole to understand what happens at the next scale."

Ferociously chaotic air currents resolve into a tornado that moves across the landscape maintaining its form. "In complex systems, through local interactions and self-organization, stable or semi-stable patterns emerge at a next level or a higher scale," she says, "but they are difficult to predict because they are so sensitive to small changes in the system or initial conditions."

Applying insights like these, Eppstein and her colleagues across the university are helping to lead the rapidly developing field of complex systems science. They aim to bring new approaches to some of the world's most vexing problems like improving hurricane forecasts, understanding the effects of phosphorous pollution in a watershed, slowing the spread of invasive species, making robots that can start to discern the intentions behind an action, and untangling the genetic and environmental threads that lead to heart disease.

The lights are on

Recall what happened on the afternoon of Aug. 14, 2003. In a cascade, the lights went out in Cleveland, New York City, Baltimore, Albany and Detroit. Eventually, more than 50 million people were without power across the Northeast and Canada as 265 power plants shut down.

This famous blackout was a complex systems failure. No one pulled the plug; numerous local problems and mistakes created a series of dynamic feedback loops. The result: an unpredictable regional disaster.

"Nobody's in charge of the electric grid," says Paul Hines, a power engineer who is part of the UVM complex systems group, "there are hundreds of companies and entities who all have a role. What's amazing is that in the midst of this system, with millions of human and non-human actors — a lot that we can't predict — we still get order. Most of the time, when you flip the switch, you get light."

Or, as Dodds says, complex systems are "typically highly balanced, flexible, and robust, but are also susceptible to systemic collapse."

Decades of work to improve overall control of this patchwork of operators, powerplants, substations, and transmission wires — a product of history more than rational design — haven't gotten very far. "The reliability of the grid has basically been constant for the last 25 years," Hines says. He recently presented data that shows the frequency of blackouts has remained the same since 1984, and also that very large blackouts are more frequent than would be expected from traditional exponential statistics and risk assessments.

"Traditional methods have tried to estimate the reliability of the system by taking each component individually," Hines says. Any one substation is pretty straightforward and may not appear to be hard to manage. "But this misses what happens when combinations of components fail," he says.

In a complex system, one plus one might add up to a lot more than you'd guess. These kinds of nonlinear interactions don't show up in a static model that simply describes the electric grid. Which is why Hines is developing dynamic graph-based models instead that draw on new methods from network theory.

"Our goal is not to create a complex model, our goal is to create a useful model," he says, "a simple model that helps us understand a complex system." He's feeding data from actual power systems into his model, seeking sets of components that cluster together when he runs the model since these may be particularly important to maintaining the robustness of electricity delivery systems.

Parts is not parts

"Complex systems science is just the evolution of science," Dodds says. Since the revolution that Newton and Descartes helped launch, the main thrust of so-called normal science has been to look for smaller pieces and more fundamental laws. Molecules yield atoms yield quarks.

"There are many problems that we figured out by breaking things into little pieces," Dodds says. "Scientists figured out DNA with its double helix. And then they figured out the human genome by

measuring like crazy. There was a sense conveyed that once we understood all the bits of the genome, we'd understand everything human," he says, "but that's totally insane."

"It's like saying once we understand atoms we understand matter," he says, "But we don't."

Of course, many of the underlying ideas behind complex systems are far older than the name. It was Aristotle who stated that the "whole is more than the sum of the parts." But complex systems science takes this realization further. As physicist PW Anderson wrote in a seminal 1972 paper in *Science*, in a complex system "the whole becomes not only more than, but very different from the sum of its parts."

"The ability to reduce everything to simple fundamental laws does not imply the ability start from those laws and reconstruct the universe," Anderson wrote.

Peter Dodds stands at the bottom of the Davis Center stairs and watches students playing pool. One after the other, they rub their cue sticks with chalk and lean over the table. "If you want to understand how humans behave collectively you have to understand what their psychology is: and you will never get that from studying quarks or DNA or cells," he says, as a stream of students pass around him like he's a rock in a river. "Never."

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Comprehending Reading Comprehension

By Jon Reidel

Article published November 12, 2008



A phenomenon known as the 'fourth-grade slump' has kept reading test scores among fourth- and eighth-graders stagnant since 1992. Majorie Lipson, professor of education, has produced research that explains what can be done about it. (Photo: Shayne Lynn)

When Marjorie Lipson, professor of elementary education, started teaching elementary school in Milwaukee in the late 1960s, researchers nationwide began studying and publishing on the mental process of reading. They wanted to know why some students

comprehended

material better than others. It marked a sea change in a field that Lipson would eventually help lead by producing nine books, countless articles, teacher training materials and one obsession: helping schools teach underperforming students how to comprehend what they read.

Lipson, who came to the university in 1982 as a visiting assistant professor, will talk about her past, present and anticipated future findings in the areas of reading and literacy during a University Scholar Lecture on Nov. 19 at 4 p.m. in Memorial Lounge, Waterman. The talk coincides with the release of her most recent book *Assessment & Instruction of Reading and Writing Difficulties: An Interactive Approach* (4th ed. Pearson Education, Inc.).

Lipson is currently involved in multiple grant-funded projects in Vermont that focus on reading comprehension and testing, analysis of writing problems and methods of language instruction with particular attention on the literacy learning of elementary school-aged children. She has secured approximately \$3.25 million in funding over the years, including grants that have supported multitude of training and professional development projects for the State of Vermont. "Much of the innovation in reading and writing that occurs in Vermont is due to the work of Prof. Lipson," wrote one of her University Scholar Lecture nominees.

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Reading without understanding

Lipson, winner of the 1991 Kroepsch-Maurice Award for Teaching Excellence at UVM, begins the first chapter of her instructional-based book *Teaching Reading Beyond the Primary Grades* with a sidebar about a talkative fifth-grader named Charlie from an upper-middle class family who reads well orally, but has almost no comprehension skills. Not surprisingly, he doesn't enjoy reading because he doesn't understand what he just read and can't answer basic questions about it. "Almost every recent report and summary review of literacy achievement in the U.S. suggests that Charlie is not alone," writes Lipson in her book, a blueprint for helping intermediate students develop the skills they need to comprehend the texts they read.

Interestingly, students like Charlie test well prior to fifth grade. Reading scores up to third grade have improved nationally, but a long-standing phenomenon known as the "fourth-grade slump" has kept test scores among fourth and eighth graders stagnant since 1992. Lipson cites two primary reasons for this trend: an explosion of funding geared toward early education creating a void in the middle grades; and the erroneous belief among many educators that accurate word recognition automatically leads to good comprehension. Supporters of the word-recognition method point to test scores rising among high school students, which Lipson says is due in part to poor performing students having already dropped out.

"What is needed is a bridge between good primary-level instruction and solid instruction for adolescents," writes Lipson whose book is intended to lay the foundation for that bridge. "Comprehension is not just a by-product of accurate word recognition; instead it's a complex process that requires active and intentional cognitive effort on the part of the reader."

A blueprint for underperforming schools

Lipson, who was awarded the Lyman C. Hunt, Jr., Award from the Vermont Council on Reading for her work in Vermont schools, says there is no simple formula for improving reading comprehension. There are a number of similar traits among successful schools, however, which Lipson and her colleagues list in an article from the journal *The Reading Teacher* titled "Building Knowledge and Fashioning Success One School at a Time." They are: strong and determined leadership; school-wide efforts, orderly classrooms and effective classroom management; effective use of instructional time; high expectations; collaborative effort among professionals; effective home communication; effective professional development; and specific instructional practices.

In addition to addressing these larger issues, Lipson also provides

specific techniques for teachers to implement into their curriculum. They include an intense instructional focus on comprehension itself; the imbedding of vocabulary words into readings for repeated exposure to students; and the setting aside of uninterrupted and focused learning time (at least 90 minutes).

All of these findings and techniques relate back to the initial question Lipson has been trying to answer for 25 years: how do good readers comprehend?

Lipson says it's complex, but when broken into its most simplistic form, involves the recognition of words and their meaning; connecting known and new information; engaging actively and intentionally with text; and by using strategies flexibly. "Children of poverty who are at risk for school failure need multiple years of effective instruction if they are to become highly skilled readers and writers" says Lipson, adding that it takes three years just to scratch the surface and as many as 8-10 years to turn a school around.

"I came head-to-head with literacy issues early in my career when I took my first teaching job in a high-poverty, high-racial-minority area," says Lipson, who has implemented a number of successful reading literacy programs in Vermont, including the federally funded Bridging Project. "It was the 60s and I wanted to make a difference. We're starting to get back some very encouraging data that shows that it's possible for our programs to have an impact on struggling students, and that's always been the goal."

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UVM HOMEPAGE

The Odd Couple

Scholar tackles fabled Russian love story, returns to UVM to lecture

By Amanda Waite

Article published November 12, 2008



Alumnus Douglas Smith will discuss his book *The Pearl* on Monday, November 17 at 4 p.m. in Memorial Lounge, Waterman Building. (Photo: Sally McCay)

Autumn 1992, while conducting research for his dissertation in Russia as a Fulbright Scholar, Douglas Smith '85 took a break from the books to play tourist at Kuskovo, a palace on the edge of Moscow. It was there, in the museum's guide book, that he first

learned about the story of eighteenth-century lovers, nobleman Nicholas Sheremetev and his serf Praskovia Kovalyova, one of the great opera singers of her time, known as "The Pearl." The unlikely couple had side-stepped the rigid class lines of imperial Russia to carry on an affair and eventual secret marriage.

"Part of me wanted to quit my dissertation and write about them," Smith recalls, "but I had done too much work on the dissertation and figured that a story of forbidden love would not endear me to my professors and colleagues back at UCLA, so I filed it away."

Nearly a decade later, with his doctoral work soundly behind him, Smith returned to the scintillating Russian tale and began the research and writing that culminated this year in his new book, *The Pearl: A True Tale of Forbidden Love in Catherine the Great's Russia* (Yale University Press).

On Monday, November 17, Smith will discuss the book in a free, public lecture at 4 p.m. in Memorial Lounge, Waterman Building.

Art and artifacts

Though he tells his story like a novelist, Smith grounds his work in painstakingly researched details. Readers see the palace's interiors, from cabinets containing fossilized frogs and part of a Babylonian

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mummy to the Flemish tapestries hanging on the walls of the reception room. To ensure the accuracy of the weather on important dates in the story, Smith dug through the archives of the St. Petersburg and Moscow gazettes. On one research foray to the Hermitage Museum he discovered never-before-studied documents, which, among other things, revealed new details from their secret wedding.

When the artifacts were not forthcoming, Smith employed alternate strategies to bring the story to life. "When I would work, I would like to play music from the composers that she sang, from the operas she performed, as a way of trying to get myself in a sort of spirit or connection with her and her world and the music."

Smith is the most recent in a long line of writers who have recounted the tale of Nicholas and Praskovia. His interpretation falls somewhere between the highly romanticized, love-conquers-all trope common among some other tellings and the notion that Nicholas was just another "evil, lecherous serf owner," an interpretation that was popular during the Soviet period. "I hope I've come up with something that's a bit more nuanced," he says, "that recognizes the complexity of the story and doesn't reduce it to an overly simplistic narrative."

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Mathematics Professor Establishes Scholarship

By Jay Goyette

Article published November 11, 2008

University of Vermont mathematics professor Kenneth I. Gross and his family have established a scholarship fund at the University of Vermont to honor the memory of Marc E. Hull, former Vermont Education Commissioner and one of Vermont's most beloved educators.

In recognition of Dr. Hull's significant accomplishments and his impact on education in Vermont, Kenneth and Mary Lou Gross and their daughters Laura and Karen have established the Marc E. Hull Scholarship Fund with a \$100,000 endowment.

Though his untimely death in 2003 at age 61 deprived Vermont of a gifted educational leader, Marc Hull left a lasting impact on the quality of Vermont schools and advanced the ideal that every Vermont child should have access to a first-rate education.

"The values and ideals of this scholarship are meant to reflect Marc Hull's belief that supporting student success is at the heart of everything we do as educators," Gross said. "Marc adhered to the principle that love of mathematics and reading at an early age are critical to a student's educational success. In mathematics, Marc understood that student success in the early grades can only be achieved if teachers themselves know and love mathematics."

The new fund will provide scholarship assistance to one or more educators annually to allow their participation in the Vermont Mathematics Initiative (VMI) or other programs administered by the Department of Mathematics at the University of Vermont that expand teachers' mathematics knowledge and help transfer that knowledge to their students. "We are very grateful to Ken and Mary Lou Gross and their children for their generosity in establishing this new scholarship," said UVM president Daniel Mark Fogel. "The VMI has been exceptionally successful in enhancing teacher knowledge and raising student achievement. This scholarship fund will enable teachers to enroll in the program who otherwise might not be able to do so."

Marc Hull was Vermont's Commissioner of Education when Dr. Gross established the VMI, a comprehensive master's degree



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program founded on strong mathematics knowledge that trains K-8 teachers to be mathematics leaders in their schools and districts. Since the program's founding in 1999, the VMI has trained over 250 teachers representing nearly 90% of the school districts in Vermont. The VMI has also become a national model. Versions of the VMI program have been introduced in other states, including Massachusetts, Nebraska and New Mexico, and the cities of Little Rock, Arkansas, and Cincinnati, Ohio, have adopted VMI for their mathematics professional development.

Contributions to the Marc E. Hull Scholarship Fund may be made by contacting the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at the University of Vermont, 802-656-1010 or 888-458-8691, or via email at alumni@uvm.edu.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Medical Flex Spending: What You May Not Know

By Lee Ann Cox

Article published November 12, 2008

November is enrollment month for the 2009 Flexible Spending Program, for both medical and dependent care expenses. But procrastinators take note — while the due date for getting forms to human resources is technically Nov. 30, that date falls on a Sunday this year and is preceded by the Thanksgiving holidays, a week which many faculty and staff may not be on campus. To be safe, submit paperwork as soon as possible and consider the deadline Nov. 26.

While it can be tricky determining the amount to allocate for medical expenses, there are a wide range of items and services which qualify for use with pretax dollars. Here is the [full list in PDF form](#) of what is eligible and what is not. Some of the more surprising and/or helpful qualifiers that might be useful in determining how much to set aside include:

- Weight-loss programs such as UVM's [Vtrim](#), if prescribed by a physician to treat a specific illness, e.g., heart disease
- Acupuncture
- Childbirth classes incurred by the mother-to-be
- Chiropractic expenses
- LASIK eye surgery
- Lead-based paint removable, if to prevent a child who has or has had lead poisoning from consuming the paint
- Lodging and meals away from home while seeking medical treatment, including for that of a companion
- Mattresses and mattress boards for the treatment of arthritis
- Over-the-counter medications
- Extra cost of a private hospital room
- Psychological care
- Smoking-cessation programs
- Prescription sunglasses
- Transportation essential to and primarily for medical care including car (gas and oil), plane, train, taxi

See the full list for details and any restrictions. Also keep in mind that all funds in your flexible spending account can be used from Jan. 1, 2009 to Dec. 31, 2009.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Provost's Report at Senate Meeting Highlights Uneven Faculty Workload

By Jeffrey Wakefield

Article published November 12, 2008

It would be nice if all academic departments were above average, like the children of Lake Woebegone, in assessments of their workload, said Provost John Hughes in a presentation to the Faculty Senate on Monday.

But an analysis conducted by the Provosts' Office, which Hughes detailed in his senate report, painted a different picture. Hughes' presentation was a preview of one he'll give to the board of trustees in December.

With a series of graphs, Hughes illustrated great differences among departments in both the average number of students within a major taught by each full time faculty member and the number of service hours, or hours taught to students not in the major, per full time faculty member.

Departments ranged from an average of roughly two majors per faculty member to 31. Departmental service hours ranged from an average of approximately nine hours per faculty member to 1,082.

If half of UVM's departments had high major-to-faculty member ratios and the other half had high service hours, all could receive Woebegone-like B+s, Hughes said, but the data showed that about a quarter of UVM's department have high numbers in both categories, while another quarter have low numbers in both. The other half roughly split between high major ratios and high service hours.

Hughes added that the departments with the greatest dual workload also boast faculty who are among the most productive from a research perspective, as measured by the dollar value of the research grants they win.

Extraordinary support for a select few

Hughes' analysis also revealed inequities in the number of degrees conferred by each of the university's 173 degree granting program. Over the last three years, the number of degrees granted per year by the programs ranged from zero to 191. Of bachelors degrees awarded in 2008, the 10 largest degree programs contributed 50

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percent of total degrees, while the 60 programs contributing the fewest degrees granted 10 percent of the degrees.

"We must ask," Hughes said, "if this accurately reflects our resource distribution. Are we putting our resources where they can impact the most number of students? That's a discussion we must have."

After citing similar inequities in masters degree programs, Hughes moved on to doctoral programs. Sixteen of the university's 22 doctoral programs have four or fewer graduates per year, he said.

"During the past year, we have had extensive discussions about providing extraordinary support to a select few doctoral programs that have the potential to move into the top quartile of programs nationally ranked by the National Research Council," Hughes said. "I would assert that no doctoral program can rise to national prominence without a sufficient number of graduates that make their mark on national and international leaders in their discipline.

"It could be argued," Hughes continued, "that at most six of our non-medical programs at UVM are candidates for such investment. because they are the only six that have four or more graduates per year."

In her remarks, senate president Robyn Warhol-Down urged the UVM administration to follow-up on the recommendations of a market research study presented at the previously months' senate meeting that the university stress academic messages in its communications.

She also led a discussion of a proposal still being developed by the Educational and Research Technologies Committee that will officially come before the senate at a future meeting. The proposal would mandate online course evaluations, with a portion of the evaluation form in a consistent format, across all academic departments (except those in the College of Medicine, which has a teaching model very different from other departments at the university). The results of the evaluations, which could include both numerical scores and written comments, would be made public as students are choosing courses for the next semester.

Judging from a lengthy Q&A session, faculty were concerned about the details but were largely supportive.

He, she, ze

Warhol-Down also addressed a new university policy sponsored by the registrar's office and supported by Chris Lucier, vice president for enrollment management, and the Student Government Association, that class lists would be changed to include the names students would prefer to use, which often do not correspond with

those on their official records.

The policy, designed to protect the privacy and safety of transgendered students who are transitioning to a new gender identity, also includes preferred pronouns, which would also appear on class lists.

Students are recommending that UVM adopt the singular pronoun "ze" (pronounced "zee") for he or she and the pronoun "hir" (pronounced "here") for the pronouns his and her, Warhol said.

Warhol-Down urged faculty to be supportive of the new policy, even if the pronouns sounded ridiculous to them, as they do to her, she admitted. She reminded faculty that the salutation "Ms." once sounded similarly silly.

Cindy Forehand, chair of the Curricular Affairs committee, brought four matters before the senate, which were all approved unanimously: the Proctor Maple Research Center will be renamed the Proctor Maple Research and Extension Center; UVM will launch a new major and minor in Global Studies under the department formerly named Area and International Studies; and to reflect those new courses of study and to modernize its name, that department will now be called Global and Regional Studies.

The meeting began with a resolution in memorium to Philip Grime, a faculty member in UVM Extension, presented by Extension professor Dale Steen.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Community Is Theme of CDAE's Global Entrepreneurship Week

By University Communications

Article published November 12, 2008

The Department of Community Development and Applied Economics is sponsoring a series of events on Nov. 17-20 from 4-7 p.m. in Billings North Lounge to inspire entrepreneurship on campus and within the local community. Global Entrepreneurship Week will include panel discussions, films, and expos on community-centered entrepreneurship.

The free event will also feature theme-related expos from local entrepreneurs and organizations. The same schedule will be followed each day starting at 4 p.m. with an expo where people can mingle and listen to music streamed from WRUV, followed by an introduction of topics and video clips by a moderator. A panel discussion will start at 5 p.m. with the expo resuming at 6 p.m.

The following topics are scheduled:

- **Nov 17: "Invent It! Product Innovation, Invention, Development and Commercialization."**

Moderator: Kathleen Liang, associate professor in CDAE. Presentations and discussions will include the how-to's of initiating a new idea or enterprise. The panel includes representatives of Invent Vermont, Vermont Small Business Development Center and New England Financial.

- **Nov 18: "Be Creative! Creative, Information, Technology and Energy Entrepreneurship."**

Moderator: Qingbin Wang, associate professor in CDAE. Presentations and discussions will focus on the promise of the creative entrepreneurship in Vermont. The panel includes representatives of Avatar and *FutureClaw* magazine.

- **Nov 19: "Make it Local! Social and Community Entrepreneurship: Vermont."**

Moderator: Michael Moser, a research specialist from the Center for Rural Studies, and representative from Growing Vermont store. Presentations and discussions will look at



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entrepreneurship related to Vermont products. The panel includes representatives from UVM's Ag Innovations program and the Vermont Agency of Agriculture.

- **Nov 20: "Take it Global! Social and Community Entrepreneurship: International."**

Moderator: Ken Bauer, assistant professor in CDAE. The panel will look at the potential of taking Vermont products to international markets and the connection between fostering entrepreneurship as a form of international development. The panel includes representatives of the Northern Vermont-Quebec Trade Coalition, St. Michael's College and Partners of the Americas.

Information: [Entrepreneurship Week](#).

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Rare Book Advocate to Speak on the Future of Books

By Selene Colburn

Article published November 12, 2008

Terry Belanger, a 2005 MacArthur Fellow and nationally renowned rare book advocate, will speak on the future of books and book collectors on Monday, Nov. 17 at 7 p.m. in Marsh Lounge, Billings Library.

Belanger is best known for his efforts to promote the study of the history, technology, and culture of books as founder and director of the University of Virginia's Rare Book School. That culture is increasingly under pressure from the ever-widening presence of electronic media. Professor Belanger suggests that there is both good and bad news for the future of books and collectors.

Rare Book School, which Belanger founded at Columbia University in 1983 and moved to University of Virginia in 1992, teaches librarians, curators, collectors, and others in the book trade all about books: bindings, typography, and illustrations as well as bibliographical description, rare book cataloging, and even electronic texts. More than thirty one-week courses are offered every year in Charlottesville, Va., and several other locations and the program has educated more than 4,000 individuals since its inception.

Director of Research Collections Jeffrey Marshall says, "It's a great honor to have Terry Belanger, who has done so much to advance our knowledge of the culture of the book, speak at UVM. I've been lucky enough to attend Rare Book School myself and it was an enormously valuable experience. We're looking forward to a provocative and spirited evening."

Belanger's talk, which is sponsored by the Friends of Special Collections, the Humanities Center, and the Classics Department, will take place in a highly appropriate building: the Billings Library, home to the University of Vermont library between 1885 and 1961, and the future home of the Special Collections Department.

The presentation is free and open to the public.

Information: 656-2138, uvmssc@uvm.edu.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

'Six Feet Under' Actress, Best-Selling Memoirist to Speak Nov. 13

By Amanda Waite

Article published November 12, 2008

Actress Lili Taylor (*I Shot Andy Warhol*, *Shortcuts*, *Mystic Pizza*, *Pecker*, *High Fidelity* and HBO's *Six Feet Under*) will speak about her career and the film industry on Thursday, Nov. 13 at 3:30 p.m. in the Livak Ballroom, Davis Center.

Taylor's acting work has been prolific, with work in theatre, television and film. After leaving DePaul University's Goodman Theatre School to pursue her acting career, Taylor went on to form her own theater company, Machine Full. Her film career began with *Mystic Pizza*, and she has since worked with many acclaimed directors including Emir Kusturica, Robert Altman, Nancy Savoca and John Waters.

After her talk, Taylor will participate in a Q&A with Hilary Neroni, associate professor of English and film. Neroni, who says her students are excited for Taylor's visit, will show clips from several of her films and ask the actress questions on a variety of topics, including, "her approach to acting in film vs. television, her thoughts about the representation of women on film, and her experiences in *Short Cuts*, *I Shot Andy Warhol*, and *Six Feet Under*."

At 5:30 p.m. in Memorial Lounge, Waterman, Taylor's partner, writer Nick Flynn will read from his bestselling memoir *Another Bullshit Night in Suck City*, which is the story of encountering for the third time in his life his estranged, homeless, ex-con father while working in a Boston homeless shelter. Nick Flynn will read new poetry as well as selections from his volumes of poetry *Some Ether* and *Blind Huber*. Flynn's poems, essays and non-fiction have appeared in *The New Yorker*, the *Paris Review*, *The New York Times Book Review* and on Public Radio International's "This American Life."

Both lectures are sponsored by the English Department and the James and Mary Brigham Buckham Fund.

Information: major.jackson@uvm.edu.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Poverty and Development Expert to Speak on Microfinancing

By Amanda Waite

Article published November 12, 2008

Ananya Roy, associate dean of academic affairs in the Division of International and Area Studies and associate professor of urban studies and international development at the University of California, Berkeley, will speak on "Poverty Capital: Microfinance and the Frontiers of Millennial Development" on Monday, Nov. 17, at 5 p. m. in the Sugar Maple Ballroom, Davis Center.

Roy, who also serves as the director of the Blum Center for Developing Economies, recently led an effort at Berkeley to create a new undergraduate minor, Global Poverty & Practice. According to Roy, microfinance — the practice of making financial services available to low-income or poor clients — is one of the most popular ideas of the new millennium for eradicating poverty.

The lecture is sponsored by the Burack President's Distinguished Lecture Series and is hosted by the Department of Geography. A reception will immediately follow the talk.

[Read more about Ananya Roy.](#)

Information: 656-5717, pablo.bose@uvm.edu.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Vermont Cancer Center Holds Annual Research Symposium

By Jennifer Nachbur

Article published November 12, 2008

The Vermont Cancer Center will hold its annual research symposium — a free conference open to scientists at UVM and in the region — on Friday, Nov. 14 at the Sheraton Burlington Hotel & Conference Center.

Titled "Clinical and Translational Research: Targeting Gynecologic and Genitourinary Cancers," the conference is designed to encourage collaborations as well as the development of effective processes to foster clinical and translational research pipelines. Jerome L. Belinson, from the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine, and Deborah Kuban, of the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, will deliver keynote presentations.

This year's symposium will feature a morning program focused on gynecologic cancer research and an afternoon session on genitourinary cancers. Vermont Cancer Center members Cheung Wong, associate professor of obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive sciences and director of gynecologic oncology, and Mark Plante, director of urologic research, associate vice-chair of surgical research and associate professor of surgery, are serving as the symposium co-chairs.

[Read more information about the conference sessions, speakers, times and location.](#) (PDF)

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Dana Medical Library Hosts Uganda Photography Exhibit

By Laura Haines

Article published November 12, 2008

An exhibit of photographs documenting the experiences of Yale physicians and medical students at Mulago Hospital in Kampala, Uganda is now on display in the Dana Medical Library.

Since 2006, physicians, residents and medical students from Yale University have been traveling to Mulago Hospital for month-long rotations with members of the faculty of medicine at Makerere University and Uganda's Ministry of Health. The photographs in this exhibit document this experience.

While the goal of the collaboration between Yale and Mulago Hospital is certainly to improve medical care in Uganda, anyone viewing the exhibit will recognize that education flows both ways; the impact of the experience on the participating residents and medical students is obvious. For more information about the program, photographs and participants' experience, visit Yale Medicine4.

This exhibit comes to UVM as part of the medical school's Clerkship Core Bridge II curriculum. A lecture by photographer John Curtis earlier this month accompanied the exhibit. The exhibit will be in the Dana Medical Library for a few weeks.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

National Geographic Giant Map Comes to Campus

By The View Staff

Article published November 12, 2008

On Tuesday, Nov. 18, UVM geography majors will guide local elementary school students in interactive games and activities on top of a giant map of North America when one of National Geographic's traveling maps is unfurled on the floor of the Livak Ballroom in the Davis Center at 9:30 a.m.

The map — measuring 26 feet by 35 feet — travels with a trunk of accessories and games, including a bean bag toss that tests students' knowledge of where foods are produced on the continent. The activities are designed to increase geographical literacy by teaching students about the physical characteristics of North America as well as its rich history and varied cultures. The Burlington-area students will be among the 75,000 U.S. students expected to walk on a National Geographic Giant Traveling Map by the end of the 2008-2009 school year.

The map comes to campus through the work of Cheryl Morse Dunkley, lecturer of geography, and Richard Kujawa, Saint Michael's College professor of geography and an adjunct associate professor of geography at UVM. Dunkley and Kujawa are the co-coordinators of the Vermont Geographic Alliance, whose mission is to provide geography education training to educators and students, and to raise geographic awareness among Vermonters. The map's visit to campus is also in celebration of Geography Awareness Week.

Information: 656-3060.

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Publications and Presentations

John Hughes, professor of psychiatry and psychology, authored a paper that was recently identified by Essential Science Indicators as the highest cited paper in the research area of Nicotine Replacement Therapy, an honor which also indicates it is one of the most-cited recent papers in its field. Titled "A meta-analysis of the efficacy of over-the-counter, nicotine replacement," the paper was originally published in the journal *Tobacco Control* in March 2003. A Q&A piece with Hughes, as corresponding author of this "Fast Moving Front" article is posted on the Thomson Reuters ScienceWatch® website for November 2008.

Christopher Francklyn, professor of biochemistry, and **Anand Minajigi**, graduate student in biochemistry, published a paper titled "RNA-assisted catalysis in a protein enzyme: The 2'-hydroxyl of tRNA^{Thr} A76 promotes aminoacylation by threonyl-tRNA synthetase" in the November 7 Early Edition of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science* (PNAS).

Wolfgang Mieder, professor of German and Russian, published "Proverbs Speak Louder Than Words" Folk Wisdom in Art, Culture, Folklore, History, Literature and Mass Media, a collection of ten essays illustrating the significance of proverbs in the past and present. Mieder documents their multifaceted use and occurrence in literature, politics, art, folklore, mass media, and popular culture including comic strips and bumper stickers. Each essay demonstrates the communicative value of proverbs, their versatility and universality, which makes them an inevitable prerequisite for cultural literacy. In addition, Mieder contributed an article to a volume dedicated to the Nobel Prize-winning German author Günter Grass. His contribution, "'Vermont.' Günter Grass' grünes Gelegenheitsgedicht," presents an analysis of Grass' poem on Vermont and its different translations into English provided by UVM German students.

Awards and Honors

Jane Okech, assistant professor in the Counseling program (IPS) and her collaborators Megan Johnson (Cross Roads Counseling Services & Counseling Program Alumni), Deborah Rubel (Oregon

State University), Randall Astramovich and Wendy Hoskins (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) were honored with the Western Association for Counselor Education & Supervision (WACES) 2008 Research Award. The award recognized the contribution of their empirically based article "Doctoral research training of counselor education faculty" which was published in the December 2006 issue of the Journal for Counselor Education & Supervision. The award was presented at the recently concluded Western Association for Counselor Education & Supervision Conference (November 5-9), Palm Springs, California.

Deborah Worthley, director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute in UVM's division of continuing education, has been named associate director for education of the recently-announced Center on Aging at UVM. Jeanne Hutchins, current manager of Elder Care Services at Fletcher Allen, has been named program manager of the Center on Aging.

November 5, 2008

Publications and Presentations

Matthew W. Bovee, assistant professor of business administration, will present preliminary results in a peer-reviewed working paper entitled "Characteristics of Decision-Useful Financial Reporting Information: An Empirical Validation of the Proposed International Accounting Model" at the 13th International Conference on Information Quality, at MIT Sloan in Boston on 15th November. The paper empirically validates a foundational model influencing the quality of financial reporting information – the United States' accounting model of the attributes of useful information. In the near future this model is set to be incorporated into an international standard, globally affecting professional decisions about the characteristics of useful financial reporting information and thus its quality for a multitude of business users. While validated information quality models exist in Information Systems as potential substitutes, these have not been fully reconciled with descriptive models of information usefulness in accounting. Using survey data from business information users as defined by the accounting standards, and partial least squares analyses, the study empirically tests and compares the proposed model for the international accounting standard and a pre-existing empirically validated Information Quality model from Information Systems.

October 29, 2008

Awards and Honors

The Sister Elizabeth Candon Distinguished Service Award was presented to **Gayle Wright Bress** at the annual meeting of the

Vermont Women in Higher Education on Friday October 24, 2008 at Lake Morey. This award is presented to a woman who has shown evidence of promoting and working toward the advancement of women in higher education and involvement at the national, regional, state, and local levels in related activities. Wright Bress was recognized for her commitment to the advancement of women and underrepresented minorities in sciences and higher education evident in her work as UVM's Hughes Endeavor for Life Science Excellence program coordinator. She was also credited for nurturing the careers of future scientists and engineers by administering programs such as Association for Women in science (AWIS), Society for the Advancement in Science (SACNAS), and Vermont Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (VT EPSCoR).

October 22, 2008

Publications and Presentations

Jeff Layne, a postdoctoral associate in the department of pharmacology, is lead author of a September 2008 article in the *American Journal of Physiology - Cell Physiology* titled "NFATc3 regulates BK channel function in murine urinary bladder smooth muscle." Co-authors on the article include David Hill-Eubanks, research assistant professor of pharmacology, and Mark Nelson, professor and chair of pharmacology.

October 15, 2008

Publications and Presentations

Cathy Beaudoin, assistant professor of business administration, presented a co-authored paper at the annual meeting of the American Accounting Association in Anaheim, Cal. in August 2008. The paper, "An Empirical Investigation of the Defined Benefit Pension Plan Freeze Decision," investigates key motivations underlying firms' decisions to freeze their defined benefit (DB) plans. It examines whether DB plan freeze decisions are motivated by: financial accounting considerations; cash flow related incentives; and improving a firm's competitive position. Based on a sample of S&P 500 firms, the findings indicate that DB plan contribution volatility and improving the firm's competitive position do not impact the freeze decision process as significantly as management might suggest. Instead, results imply that the effect of proposed pension accounting changes plays a primary role in the decision to freeze DB plans. Co-authors are: Nandini Chandar and Edward Werner, Drexel University.

Garrison Nelson, professor of political science, published "Democracy, Diversity, and the 2008 Presidential Election: Mapping

State Electoral Votes by Diversity Propensity" in *The International Journal of Diversity in Organisations, Communities & Nations*.

David Novak and **Christopher Hodgdon**, assistant professors of business administration, and **Lisa Aultman-Hall**, director of the Transportation Research Center, recently had a paper accepted for publication in *Network and Spatial Economics* titled, "Nationwide Freight Generation Models: A Spatial Regression Approach." Feng Guo, professor of statistics, Virginia Tech, was co-author. The paper investigates spatial issues associated with freight generation models. A spatial regression modeling methodology is employed to correct for spatial autocorrelation — a linear correlation or dependence among variables based on spatial proximity. New variables are proposed, formulated, and then tested to capture spatial effects. Multi-zone spatial variables are proposed, based on the assumption that certain social-economic and/or transportation hubs will not only impact freight generation in the zone where they are located, but will also impact freight generation in the surrounding zones. The research demonstrates that linear regression models using widely available socioeconomic data suffer from spatially correlated residuals. The application of spatial regression modeling techniques can improve model fit and eliminate problems associated with the spatial autocorrelation.

October 8, 2008

Awards and Honors

Brooke Mossman, professor of pathology and director of the environmental pathology program, received the 2008 Wagner Medal Award at the 9th International Conference of the International Mesothelioma Interest Group (IMIG) in Amsterdam on September 25. The award recognizes an individual who, in the opinion of the IMIG committee, has made a major contribution to mesothelioma research, either clinical or laboratory, over a number of years. Established in 2002, the award is named in honor of the late Chris Wagner, who pioneered research into mesothelioma and was the first to identify the association between asbestos exposure and mesothelioma.

Paula Duncan, clinical professor of pediatrics, youth health director for the Vermont Child Health Improvement Program and medical director of the Office of Primary Care, received the Oral Health Service Award and Job Lewis Smith Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). Awarded by the AAP Section on Pediatric Dentistry and Oral Health, the Oral Health Award recognizes an individual who, during the course of his/her career, has made significant contributions to the advancement of pediatric oral health through activities within the Academy. Duncan was honored with the Job Lewis Smith Award by the AAP Council on

Community Pediatrics in recognition of her outstanding service in community pediatrics. Duncan is chair of the AAP Council Management Committee and chair of the AAP Bright Futures Implementation Advisory Committee. She is a co-editor of the third edition of Bright Futures.

Judy Cohen, professor of nursing, was selected by the Snelling Institute as a fellow for the 08-09 Vermont Leadership Institute.

Burton Wilcke, professor and chair of medical and laboratory sciences, will serve on the faculty of the George Washington University International Institute for Public Health Laboratory Management, a two-week program targeting laboratory directors from developing countries held in Washington, D.C. October 13 to 26. Participants from 13 different countries in South America, Africa and Southeast Asia are expected to attend. Wilcke was recently invited to serve on the Editorial Board for a special Supplement to the journal Public Health Reports titled "The US Public Health Laboratory System."

Publications and Presentations

Judy Cohen presented research titled "The experience of movement meditation: A dance of rhythmic paradox and time" at the Sigma Theta Tau International, Kappa Tau Chapter Research Night on October 2, 2008 with co-authors **Betty Rambur**, dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, and **Cheryl Laskowski**, assistant professor of nursing.

October 1, 2008

Awards and Honors

Paula Duncan, clinical professor of pediatrics and youth health director of the Vermont Child Health Improvement Program (VCHIP), is the recipient of the American Academy of Pediatrics' (AAP) 2008 Clifford Grulee Award. Sponsored by the AAP Executive Committee and established in 1951, this award recognizes outstanding service to AAP beyond that required of the elected leadership. Duncan will be presented with the award at the Annual Business Meeting at the AAP National Conference and Exhibition in Boston, Mass., on October 13.

The Pediatric Inflammatory Bowel Disease Network for Research and Improvement (PIBDNet) Trailblazer Improvement Collaborative, led by **Richard Colletti**, professor and vice chair of pediatrics, has been selected as an Improve First initiative by the Alliance for Pediatric Quality (Alliance). Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) is a serious chronic condition affecting 100,000 children and adolescents. This collaborative of PIBDNet will develop a guideline and algorithms for

Model IBD Treatment, as well as measures to track performance and outcomes. The Trailblazer Improvement Collaborative was selected from more than 50 improvement initiatives associated with priorities identified by the Alliance's expert task force. The priorities are based on the Alliance's Improve First philosophy: Spreading well-designed, well-run improvement initiatives with demonstrated results is one of the most important first steps the pediatric community can take to measurably improve children's health outcomes and transform how care is delivered. To date, the Trailblazer Collaborative has enrolled more than 1700 patients, creating the largest pediatric IBD registry in the country.

September 24, 2008

Awards and Honors

Edwin Bovill, professor and chair of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine; **Naomi Fukagawa**, professor of medicine; and **Judith Van Houten**, Perkins Professor of Biology, Director of the VT EPSCoR, Vermont Genetics Network and HELIX Programs, were inducted into the Vermont Academy of Science and Engineering (VASE) on September 23, 2008.

Charles MacLean, associate professor of medicine, was named interim associate dean for primary care at the College of Medicine. MacLean will replace Dr. John Fogarty, who left UVM to become dean at Florida State University College of Medicine. MacLean will maintain his faculty appointment and role as research director for the Office of Primary Care, and continue his teaching, research and clinical practice within the Primary Care Internal Medicine division.

The Horticultural Research Center's rain garden won first place in Chittenden County in a statewide contest of gardens designed to aid in stormwater management. Rain gardens are designed to divert runoff from storm drains, reducing pollution while nourishing plants and flowers.

UVM's **Vermont Institute for Artisan Cheese** has been awarded a \$99,000 grant to work on-site with 20 Vermont cheesemakers to develop protocols to help manage food safety issues. The well-timed grant follows a recent recall in Quebec after consumer illnesses and deaths linked to cheese consumption. "We hope this proactive approach," said Catherine Donnelly, professor and co-director of VIAC, "will help foster the growth of future successful cheesemaking enterprises in Vermont."

September 17, 2008

Awards and Honors

The department of medical laboratory and radiation sciences was one of seven university- and college-based programs to receive new state-of-the-art equipment through the Abbott Labs Are Vital® Equipment Donation Program. Recipients were selected from 225 grant applicants from 29 states across the United States. **Christine Griffin**, lecturer of medical laboratory and radiation sciences, submitted the grant application, which resulted in a donation of a HEMO Analyzer CD1800 valued at \$38,000 with three years of full service and supplies. Recipients were announced July 30 at the American Association of Clinical Chemistry Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

Ödul "Laurie" Amburgey, a maternal-fetal medicine fellow in the department of obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive sciences, was selected as one of four recipients of a 2008 Vision Grant from the Preeclampsia Foundation for her study of brain vessel function in preeclamptic women. Preeclampsia, a condition characterized by high blood pressure, protein in the urine, as well as swelling in the hands and face during the second half of pregnancy, is responsible for at least 76,000 maternal deaths each year. Amburgey's research seeks to determine if some women have certain blood factors that make them more susceptible to brain swelling.

Bradley Palmer, research assistant professor of molecular physiology and biophysics, received a five-year, \$1.25 million grant from the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute to support his research on the role of zinc in the relaxation processes of individual heart muscle cells known as cardiomyocytes. An essential mineral found in almost every cell of the human body, zinc stimulates the activity of dozens of enzymes responsible for critical chemical reactions. Palmer's research will specifically address the role of protein-bound zinc and free zinc ion in the heart's relaxation process. Relaxation plays a significant part in heart function, because it permits the chambers to fill with blood before the next contraction.

September 10, 2008

Publications and Presentations

Kevin McKenna, professor of Russian, published "Didactics and the Proverb: The Case of Alexander Solzhenitsyn's Literary Memoir, The Oak and the Calf." McKenna examines how Solzhenitsyn uses proverbs to illustrate and underscore the message of his five-hundred page memoir about his experiences as a writer in the Soviet Union during the tumultuous period from 1962 to 1974.

David Jones, assistant professor of business administration, and his coauthors, Drs. Neil Fassina and Krista Uggerslev (Asper School of Business, University of Manitoba) had an article published in the

most recent issue of the *Journal of Organizational Behavior*. Their meta-analytic findings challenged accepted wisdom on the structure of cooperative work behaviors, and showed that employees tend to target the performance or withdrawal of these behaviors towards the sources of perceived fair and unfair treatment. They also showed that these cooperative behaviors are simultaneously influenced by gestalt perceptions of fairness based on treatment from both immediate supervisors and the larger organization. Also this September, David and his co-author, Dr. Martin Martens (John Molson School of Business, Concordia), presented a paper at the annual meeting of the British Academy of Management in Harrogate, England, titled "Justice, overall fairness, and employee attitudes: Using qualitative data to understand how context affects quantitative findings."

Wolfgang Mieder, professor of German and Russian, who stepped down as chairperson after 31 years, is the editor of the English translation of Lutz Röhrich's seminal work on fairytales titled, "And They Are Still Living Happily Ever After: Anthropology, Cultural History, and Interpretation of Fairy Tales." Mieder also edited the 25th volume of "Proverbium: Yearbook of International Proverb Scholarship." The volume contains Mieder's article "Let Us Have Faith that 'Right Makes Might': Proverbial Rhetoric in Decisive Moments of American Politics," an examination of proverbs in American political discourse. He traces the use of proverbs in the political speeches of American presidents from Abraham Lincoln to George W. Bush as well as in those of political activists like Frederic Douglass, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Martin Luther King Jr. In addition, Mieder is the author of "Don't Swap Horses in the Middle of the Stream: An Intercultural and Historical Study of Abraham Lincoln's Apocryphal Proverb," which traces the origin of the proverb and documents its subsequent use throughout different centuries and cultures.

Jane Okech, assistant professor, Department of Integrated Professional Studies is the author of a September 2008 article in the *Journal for Specialists in Group Work* titled "Reflective practice in group co-leadership." She is also the lead author of a September 2008 article in the *International Journal for the Advancement of Counselling* titled "Informing culturally competent practice through cross-racial friendships." Her co-author on the paper is Julia Champe, assistant professor, Department of Educational Psychology and Special Education, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale.

Helga Schreckenberger, professor of German and Russian, published "Joseph Hahn: Kunst als Ehrfurcht vor dem Leben," illustrating the influence of the exile experience on Joseph Hahn's poetry. Hahn, a refugee from Nazi Germany, lived in Middlebury for the past eighteen years. He died on October 31, 2007. Schreckenberger argues that the experience of exile impacted not

only the thematic aspect of Hahn's work but also its language.

Awards and Honors

Dr. Richard Colletti, professor of pediatrics, received the 2008 Distinguished Service Award from the North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (NASPGHAN) in recognition of his excellence and service to the field. Colletti will be presented with the award at a ceremony during the NASPGHAN and Children's Digestive Health and Nutrition Foundation joint annual conference in San Diego on Saturday, November 15.

Dr. Roger Young, professor of obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive sciences, was elected to the national Board of Trustees of the March of Dimes Foundation. March of Dimes trustees, who serve as volunteers, represent the public in governing the organization and advancing its mission and serve five-year terms. Young has reviewed scientific grant applications for the March of Dimes for six years, and served as a member of the organization's Scientific Advisory Committee since 2006. He is a recognized leader in the field of uterine physiology of pregnancy, and has a long-range goal of decreasing the rising rate of prematurity in the United States, which is consistent with a component of the mission of the March of Dimes.

Karen Richardson-Nassif, associate dean for faculty and staff development and diversity in the College of Medicine, and colleagues will be receiving the Best Paper Award for 2007 from the Research In Medical Education Committee of the Association of American Medical Colleges at the organization's annual meeting in San Antonio on November 4. The group is being recognized for their joint paper titled "Crafting Successful Relationships with the IRB, which was presented at the AAMC annual meeting in 2007.

September 3, 2008

Publications and Presentations

Representatives of the UVM Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program Office delivered a poster presentation and a workshop at the National AHEC Association (NAO) 2008 Conference in Denver, Colorado June 28 to July 1. **Dr. Richard Pinckney**, assistant professor of medicine, presented a workshop titled "Teaching health professionals about pharmaceutical advertising: experience from the Program in Wise Prescribing." **Laurie Hurowitz**, research assistant professor of medicine, delivered a poster presentation titled "Promoting Healthier Weight in Adult Primary Care in Vermont – A Public Health and AHEC Partnership." The NAO national conference takes place every two years and represents a nationwide sharing of successful efforts to connect students to careers,

professionals to communities, and communities to better health.

Awards and Honors

Betsy Greene, associate professor of animal science, received the 2008 Communication Award in recognition of Excellence in Use of Communications Media from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. Greene was the national winner for her work with eXtension's HorseQuest website. Greene is also co-chair of the "HorseQuest Community of Practice" which includes over fifty national equine experts throughout the country.

Dr. Ted James, assistant professor of surgery, received the Cancer Liaison Physician Outstanding Performance Award from the Commission on Cancer (CoC) for his leadership and guidance as a physician champion. This national award recognizes physicians who go above and beyond expectations to improve and provide direction to their cancer program. James is among 55 recipients nationwide to achieve this recognition.

Rex Forehand, Heinz and Rowena Ansbacher Professor of Psychology and director of the University's clinical training program, received the American Psychology Association's 2008 Award for Distinguished Career Contributions to Education and Training at their annual meeting on August 15.

Adam Lock, assistant professor of animal Science, received the 2008 Young Scientist Award for Research for the Northeast by the American Dairy Science Association and the American Society for Animal Science. Lock is noted for his research on the role of fats and lipids in animal and human nutrition as well as studies with ruminant nutrition.

Lee Nelson, clinical professor of rehabilitation and movement science, received Massachusetts General Hospital's Institute of Health Professions Distinguished Alumni Award at their commencement on May 3, 2008. This award recognizes individuals who have worked to expand and refine the scientific basis for clinical practice through research and scholarship; contributed to new models of practice to foster provision of effective, affordable and ethical care; and contributed significantly to advancing the mission, reputation and standards of the Institute.

Monica Patton is one of fifteen fourth-year medical students to receive an American Medical Association Foundation Physicians of Tomorrow Scholarship. Recipients were nominated by their medical school dean and chosen by a selection committee based upon their academic standing and financial status, as well as community involvement, letters of recommendation and personal statement. Each student will receive a \$10,000 scholarship to help defray

medical school expenses. Currently participating in a clinical rotation at Maine Medical Center, Patton recently completed "The CDC Experience: Applied Epidemiology Fellowship at CDC," a competitive fellowship program that selects eight medical students from around the country each year to spend 10 to 12 months at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Students in the Department of Animal Science won awards at the national meetings of the American Dairy Science Association and the American Society for Animal Science in Indianapolis. **Emma Wall**, a doctoral student also in the Vermont Genetics Network Bioinformatics Core was the sole recipient of the H. Allen Tucker National Appreciation Award for travel to the American Society of Animal Science's annual meeting in Indianapolis last week. She presented two papers of significance to the Vermont dairy industry with her advisor, **Thomas McFadden**, as coauthor. They were, "The acute response to milk removal and the long-term response to frequent milking treatment involve distinct mechanisms" and "The persistent milk yield response to frequent milking during early lactation is associated with persistent changes in mammary gene expression." She was presented with a check and plaque at the awards dinner. **Lindsay Lord**, a master of science candidate won second place in the Northeast Graduate Student Competition for her presentation, "Photoperiod regulates diurnal expression patterns of genes related to immune function in PBMC of heifers." **Jennifer Scudder**, also a master of science candidate, placed third in the Northeast Graduate Student Competition with her presentation, "Colicin E1 and EDTA have additive antimicrobial effects against E. coli isolates in bovine milk."

Denise Youngblood's book *Russian War Films: On the Cinema Front, 1914-2005* was named a Choice Outstanding Academic Title. Youngblood, professor of history, has also received a grant from the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies to support her current project, "Double Vision: Soviet and American Films during the Cold War" (with Tony Shaw).

July 16, 2008

Publications and Presentations

Christopher W. Allen, emeritus professor of chemistry and interim director of the Vermont Advanced Computing Center presented a paper entitled "Cyclo- and Polyalkynylphosphazenes" at the International Conference on the Chemistry of phosphorus Compounds (ICPC XV) in St Petersburg Russia in May. He also presented two invited papers, "Polyester: You wear it, you love it but do you know it" and "Cyclo-and Polyalkynyl phosphazenes" at the 35th Northeast Regional American Society Meeting in Burlington in June. He published an article on "The Mechanism of the Reaction of

Alkali Metal Phenoxides with Hexahalocyclotriphosphazenes "in *Phosphorus, Sulfur, Silicon and the Related Elements* in 2008.

Frank Bryan, professor of political science, presented the address, "New England Democracy and America: The Road Not Taken" at a conference on "The State of New England: People, Politics, and Policies" at the Joseph Martin Institute for Law and Society, Stonehill College, Easton, Mass. on March 28, 2008.

Garrison Nelson, professor of political science, also presented a paper at the Stonehill Conference, "Running from New England: Will It Ever Lead the Nation Again." He also presented papers, "Party Leadership Selection in Congress: A Century of Change," to the Annual Meeting of the New England Political Science Association on April 25, 2008 in Providence, Rhode Island with Douglas B. Harris, Loyola College of Maryland and "Democracy, Diversity, and the 2008 Presidential Election: Mapping State Electoral Votes by Diversity Propensity," a paper for the Eighth International Conference on Diversity in Organisations, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, on June 20, 2008. An excerpt of Nelson's speech, "Democracy and Diversity in 2008," delivered to the New York Regional Board of the Alumni of the University of Vermont on May 7, 2008 was published in the April, 2008 issue of *Vermont Woman* as "Mapping a Path for a Woman President," with maps by Geography senior **Michael J. Oldham**. Nelson conducted a number of interviews recently with Channel 3 on Vermont's congressional delegation; Channel 5 and Fox 44 on the 2008 presidential election and upcoming contests in Vermont. National interviews have appeared in the *Boston Globe* and for the Cox Newspapers in the *Atlanta Constitution* and the *Kansas City Star*.

Several Dana Medical Library faculty and staff members presented posters at the Medical Library Association Annual Meeting in Chicago in May 2008. **Donna O'Malley**, library associate professor, presented a poster titled "A Medline Station in the Clerkship Clinical Skills Exam." **Nancy Bianchi**, library associate professor, presented a poster titled "An Analysis of Clinical Questions Asked at Professor Rounds: a Retrospective Review" at the Medical Library Association Annual Meeting in May 2008. **Shiela Phillippe**, library assistant professor, **Christina Kussey**, library assistant professor, **Lesley Boucher**, head of circulation/reserves, **Marianne Burke**, library associate professor and director, Dana Medical Library, and **Colin McClung**, library support assistant, presented a poster titled "Academic Medical Center to Rural Clinic: Ensuring Fair and Accurate Representation in Go Local." **Laura Haines**, library assistant professor, presented a poster titled "Measuring the Effectiveness of Community Outreach: The Community Medical School Project." Dr. **Peggy Carey**, assistant professor of family medicine, and **Laura Haines** also co-presented a poster titled "Information Rx As Patient-Physician Communication Tool and

Community Health Information Program." Haines received one of four 2008 EBSCO Information Services/MLA Annual Meeting Grants, which are designed to cover conference-related expenses.

Donna O'Malley and **Christina Kussey** presented a poster titled "Benefits of Integrating the Library Reserve Function With Blackboard," at the Association of American Medical Colleges Northeastern Group on Educational Affairs Annual Meeting in April 2008. O'Malley also co-authored another poster at the meeting, which was titled "Teaching Evidence-Based Literature Retrieval to Medical Students and Residents." O'Malley is the author of a Winter 2008 Clinical Laboratory Science article titled "A Survey of Scholarly Literature Databases for Clinical Laboratory Science."

Susan Lowey, professor of molecular physiology and biophysics, is lead author of a July 18 *Journal of Biological Chemistry* article titled "Functional Effects of the Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy R403Q Mutation Are Different in an α - or β -Myosin Heavy Chain Backbone." Co-authors on the article include **Alex Hodges**, postdoctoral associate in molecular physiology and biophysics, **Sheryl White**, research assistant professor of anatomy and neurobiology, **Robert Low**, professor emeritus of molecular physiology and biophysics, and Mercedes Rincon, associate professor of medicine.

Judith Shaw, research assistant professor of pediatrics and director of the Vermont Child Health Improvement Program, and **Sharon Henry**, associate professor of rehabilitation and movement science, have been selected to participate in the 2008-09 Management Institute for Women in Higher Education, an integrated series of five seminars offering women administrators and faculty professional leadership and management training, sponsored by the New England branch of Higher Education Resource Services (HERS) and held at Wellesley College.

Kathleen Trybus, professor of molecular physiology and biophysics, is senior author of a July 11 *Journal of Biological Chemistry* article titled "Functional Effects of Nemaline Myopathy Mutations on Human Skeletal \pm -Actin." **Becky Miller**, postdoctoral fellow in molecular physiology and biophysics is first author on the paper.

Dann Van Der Vliet had an editorial titled "'The Art of Business' in Vermont – Where benefits are for the dogs and the pizzas are flat" published in the August issue of *Vermont Business* magazine. The piece focused on how Vermonters and their businesses have long been innovative, creative, thrifty, and artful as Vermont people and businesses continue to lead their respective industries. On May 21, a rare assembly of seven business leaders gathered to discuss what "the art of business" means to them today and why it matters. Brought together by the popular 7X7X7 panel at the Vermont

Business and Industry Expo, each panelist shared a tip that demonstrated how they incorporate creativity in the workplace and what the tangible benefits were. These business owners and leaders each shared one common trait: passion for their fellow employees.

Curt Ventriss, professor of public policy, Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, and adjunct professor, Institute for Policy Studies, Johns Hopkins University, was invited to give the keynote policy lecture at the international forum entitled "New Direction in Policy Research" in Brazil. The forum was sponsored by the Federal University of Bahia, Federal University of Santa Catarina, and State University of Santa Catarina. Professor Ventriss's keynote lecture was entitled "The Implications of Participatory Policy Analysis: A Reexamination." The lecture was presented to doctoral students in policy and to the faculty of the sponsoring universities in Brazil.

Awards and Honors

Gayle Belin, clinical associate professor in the Department of Communication Sciences has recently become president of the Vermont Speech Language and Hearing Association (VSHA). Her term runs from 2008 through 2010. She was also one of 20 participants selected from a nationwide pool to take part in a Leadership Development Program through the American Speech Language and Hearing Association (ASHA).

Mark Nelson, professor and chair of pharmacology, has received a prestigious MERIT (Method to Extend Research in Time) award from the National Institutes of Health National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases. The ten-year, \$3.39 million grant provides continued funding for Nelson's research on urinary disorders, such as overactive bladder and incontinence, as well as for additional investigation on the underlying causes and potential therapies for erectile dysfunction. This award, which recognizes Nelson's superior grant performance, research competence and productivity throughout his career, will provide 10 years of continued funding support without the typical competitive review required by most grants. The MERIT award program is intended to foster continued creativity and reduce the administrative burdens associated with the preparation and submission of research grant applications.

May 21, 2008

Publications and Presentations

Dr. **Richard Zubarik**, associate professor of medicine and chief of endoscopy at Fletcher Allen, presented an abstract titled "Pancreatic Cancer Screening in a High-Risk Population: Preliminary Data of a

Multi-Center Trial Employing Carbohydrate Antigen (CA) 19-9 and Endoscopic Ultrasound" at Digestive Disease Week® 2008 in San Diego on May 19. With support from the Vermont Cancer Center and the Lake Champlain Cancer Research Organization, Zubarik examined the effectiveness of a new screening method for pancreatic cancer using CA 19-9, a tumor marker that is most often used to monitor disease progress as well as predict survival rates, with endoscopic ultrasound. He found that Stage 1 pancreatic cancers were more likely to be detected using this protocol. The finding is significant because a nationally-accepted screening tool for pancreatic cancer does not exist.

Barbara Arel, assistant professor of Business Administration, published an article entitled "The Influence of Auditor Experience on the Persuasiveness of Information Provided by Management," in *Auditing: A Journal of Practice & Theory* (Volume 27, Number 1, May 2008.) The paper is co-authored with Ed O' Donnell, from The University of Kansas and Steven Kaplan, from Arizona State University. The study investigates whether experience limits auditors' reliance on management-provided information when that information is more favorable than an objective benchmark. The findings suggest that as auditors gain experience, they also gain persuasion knowledge, which allows them to deflect management's persuasion attempts.

Brooke Mossman, professor of pathology and director of the environmental pathology program, is a coauthor on a May 2 *Science* article titled "Innate Immune Activation Through Nalp3 Inflammasome Sensing of Asbestos and Silica." These research findings identified the role of the Nalp3 inflammasome in particulate matter-related pulmonary diseases and support its role as a major proinflammatory "danger" receptor.

Mercedes Rincon, associate professor of medicine, was the lead author of a May 2 *Science* article titled "Phosphorylation by p38 MAPK as an Alternative Pathway for GSK3 β Inactivation." Coauthors on the paper include **Dwight Matthews**, professor and chair of chemistry, and postdoctoral associates **Tina Thornton** and **C. David Wood**, as well as **Alexander Aronshtam**, a lab research technician in the immunobiology division of medicine. The p38 mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPK) is a key intracellular protein that regulates inflammatory cytokine production and modulates T cell function. Rincon and colleagues' research identified an alternative pathway for the inactivation of GSK3 β , which is involved in metabolism, neurodegeneration and cancer.

Marilyn Cipolla, associate professor of neurology, presented a study at the International Stroke Conference in February 2008 that was published in a special April supplement to the journal *Hypertension*. Titled "Pregnancy Reverses Hypertensive Remodeling

of Cerebral Arteries," the article reports on Cipolla's findings that pregnancy reverses hypertensive remodeling of cerebral arteries. Though the mechanism behind hypertensive remodeling was previously fairly unknown, Cipolla's research found evidence of a protective mechanism that prevents damaging pressure from getting to the microcirculation and causing edema formation. Pregnancy reverses this circumstance, thereby predisposing women to eclampsia, a serious complication of pregnancy.

Awards and Honors

Trina Magi, library associate professor, was presented with the 2008 Vermont School Library Association Award on May 13, 2008 at the Vermont Library Conference in recognition of her "dedication, leadership, and collaboration with the Vermont School Library Community." Trina was specifically recognized for her work this past year as chair of the Vermont Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Committee, which successfully worked with school, public, and academic librarians, the state library, parents groups, and state lawmakers to introduce legislation that would strengthen Vermont state law regarding the confidentiality of library records. Gov. **Jim Douglas** signed the legislation into law this week. The new law (S. 220, "An Act Relating to the Confidentiality of Library Patron Records") will take effect on July 1, 2008. The law specifies that only a court order from a judge could force the release of a library patron's records. The previous law allowed librarians to release the records on their own volition.

Nicole B. Chittenden, assistant dean/business operations administrator of the School of Business Administration, was presented with a "Rising Star Award" at the Vermont Council for Quality's Annual Recognition and Award Ceremony on May 14, 2008. The award is granted to those individuals who are newly affiliated with Vermont Council for Quality and who have been hugely supportive of the program. Nicole completed VCQ's 3-tiered Baldrige training--approximately 50 hours--to be certified as a Vermont Council of Quality Performance Examiner. She then volunteered to be a member of the team that conducted the three-day site visit that resulted in Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Vermont earning this year's Governor's Award. The site visit takes countless hours, not only on site, but also driving to and from and working after hours to complete the necessary work. Nicole was one of six people on the Site Visit Team. Nicole was also instrumental in the School of Business Administration becoming a Bronze Sponsor of Vermont Council for Quality.

Lee Nelson, a physical therapist and clinical professor of rehabilitation and movement science, received MGH's Institute of Health Professions Distinguished Alumni Award at their commencement on May 3, 2008. The criteria for the award include:

expanding and refining the scientific basis for clinical practice through research and scholarship; contributing to new models of practice to foster provision of effective, affordable and ethical care; and contributing significantly to advancing the mission, reputation and standards of the Institute. The MGH Institute of Health Professions is an independent affiliate of Massachusetts General Hospital, which operates within the Partners HealthCare System – the nation's second largest integrated health care system.

Dr. **Melody Brown Burkins**, associate dean in the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences, has been appointed to the National Academy of Sciences U.S. National Committee for the Geological Sciences (USNC/GS). Managed by the National Academies' Board on International Scientific Organizations (BISO) in the National Research Council Policy and Global Affairs division, the USNC/GS is composed of a diversity of earth systems scientists from academia, research, government, and industry who have received honors in their field and support the promotion of earth systems science and policy issues in the U.S. and throughout the international community. "I am extremely pleased to see one of our newest colleagues recognized by the National Academies for her earth and environmental research experience as well as her skill connecting the world of science and policy," said **Domenico Grasso**, Dean of the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences (CEMS). "Melody's enthusiasm for promoting scientific excellence and applications beyond the walls of academe will be an asset to U. S. National Committee efforts, just as it is for UVM and Vermont." As one of 20 U.S. National Committees coordinated by the National Academies, the USNC/GS represents U.S. interests to the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), a member union of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU). The USNC/GS also acts as the adhering body to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) International Geoscience Programme (IGCP). In August, a USNC member detail will represent U.S. geoscience interests to the 33rd International Geological Congress "Earth System Science: Foundation for Sustainable Development" meeting in Oslo, Norway.

Dr. **Virginia L. Hood**, professor of medicine and a nephrologist at Fletcher Allen, has been re-elected to serve a second three-year term with the Board of Regents of the American College of Physicians (ACP), the main policymaking body of the nation's second-largest physician organization. She began her second term during Internal Medicine 2008 -- the ACP annual scientific meeting held in Washington, D.C., May 15 through 17. Dr. Hood is the incoming 2008-2010 chair of the national ACP Ethics, Professionalism, and Human Rights Committee, chair of the ACP International Subcommittee for 2007-2009 and an ex officio member of the ACP Membership Committee. She has held numerous leadership roles at both the national and statewide levels

of ACP over the past 17 years.

Judy Cohen, professor of nursing, was appointed Faculty Nurse Scientist at the Yvonne L. Munn Center for Nursing Research at Massachusetts General Hospital. The Munn Center was established in 2003 to provide nurses an opportunity to identify new ways to reshape, influence and improve the delivery of patient care and nursing practice.

April 30, 2008

Publications and Presentations

Several members of the department of pharmacology contributed to an April 30 PNAS (Proceedings of the National Academy of Science) Early Edition paper titled "High blood pressure arising from a defect in vascular function." Among the co-authors are **Mark Nelson**, professor and chair of pharmacology, **Adrian Bonev**, research assistant professor of pharmacology, and **Michael Wilkerson**, postdoctoral associate in pharmacology.

Jan Carney, research professor of medicine and associate dean for public health, co-authored a "Brief Communication" titled "Community-Academic Partnerships: A "Community-First" Model to Teach Public Health" in the open-access e-Journal Education for Health on April 21.

April 23, 2008

Publications and Presentations

Wolfgang Mieder, professor and chairperson of the department of German and Russian, is the author of the book "Hänsel und Gretel: Das Märchen in Kunst, Musik, Literatur, Medien und Karikaturen," which deals with the origin, meaning, and modern survival of one of the best known fairy tales. The book includes 145 illustrations depicting the use of various motifs of this tale in art, advertising, and cartoons. He also published a series of articles on fairy tales and advertising, aphorisms, cartoons, comics, poems, proverbs, stamps, etc. in the three-volume "Encyclopedia of Folktales and Fairy Tales." His article on "God Helps Them Who Help Themselves: Proverbial Rhetoric in the Letters of Abigail Adams" appeared in an essay volume in Bulgaria, and another article on anti-proverbs with the title "Phrasenkritik durch Antisprichwörter im 19. Jahrhundert" appeared in another volume in Austria.

Dennis Mahoney, professor and director of the department of German and Russian, has published an article on "Apt Pupil: The Making of a 'Bogeyboy'" in a volume on "The Films of Stephen King. From "Carrie" to "Secret Window" (New York: Palgrave Macmillan,

2008) edited by **Tony Magistrale**, professor in the department of English. Mahoney presents a detailed comparison of King's original novella "Apt Pupil" and its subsequent film adaptation, showing similarities and differences in these two versions of the same plot. While the novella shows how crimes of the Nazi era influence a high school pupil to commit atrocities, Mahoney also refers to actual occurrences today that show this as well, to wit the recent shooting at Columbine High School in Colorado. King's invented tale of horror unfortunately proves to be only too realistic when compared with modern crimes.

Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux, associate professor of geography and Vermont state climatologist, and CO-PI **Regina Toolin**, assistant professor of education, have received a \$149,466 grant from the National Science Foundation: Satellites, Weather and Climate to implement a two-year pilot project to increase climate education and literacy in public schools. Vermont's education department is one of 15 across the US that has signed up to integrate climate issues into their science curricula.

Edwin Bovill, professor and chair of pathology, authored an editorial in the March 19 *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Titled "Gene Discovery in Venous Thrombosis: progress and promise," Bovill's paper responded to an article titled "Gene Variants Associated With Deep Vein Thrombosis" (Bezemer et. al) in the March 19 *JAMA*.

Charles Irvin, professor of medicine and director of the Vermont Lung Center, is a co-author of an article in the April 21 Online Early Edition of *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science* titled, "Indoleamine 2,3-dioxygenase in lung dendritic cells promotes Th2 responses and allergic inflammation."

Gary Margolis, UVM's chief of police, gave a presentation at a conference at Princeton University on April 18 marking the one-year anniversary of the fatal shooting at Virginia tech that explored the progress and continuing questions related to campus security. The event, titled "Campus Safety in Focus: Advances and Ongoing Challenges One Year Later," featured the release of a "Blueprint for Safer Campuses" by the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA). Steven Healy, Princeton's director of public safety and immediate past president of IACLEA, was joined by Margolis and Dolores Stafford, chief of police at George Washington University. Katherine Newman, Princeton's Malcolm Stevenson Forbes, Class of 1941, Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs, delivered the keynote address. Newman is the author of "Rampage: The Social Roots of School Shootings," which examines the rash of school shootings in the 1990s, the roots of school violence and the repercussions for the affected communities. Campus safety professionals and other experts also participated in

panel discussions on the best practices and model policies in threat assessment, the growing complexities in liability analysis and the state of campus safety in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania.

April 16, 2008

Publications and Presentations

The March 2008 issue of NIDA Notes from the National Institute on Drug Abuse featured an article titled "Combination Treatment Extends Marijuana Abstinence" focused on research by **Stephen Higgins**, professor of psychiatry and psychology and co-director of the Human Behavioral Pharmacology Lab and Substance Abuse Treatment Center, and colleagues. The research team found that using a combination of vouchers and cognitive-behavioral therapy may be more effective in keeping marijuana abusers abstinent in the longer term than vouchers-only and CBT-only programs.

Rick Vanden Bergh, professor of business administration and expert on corporate strategy in the political environment, was featured in an article on CFO.com about how the accounting profession still gives most of its campaign contributions to Republicans, but that the portion going to Democrats is growing. Vanden Bergh tells CFO.com that proving the exact motivation behind corporate political donations is a difficult feat, adding that contributions to congressional representatives and senators are more effective for firms in a regulated profession (such as accounting) because those legislators play a more pivotal role than the president in policy making and in the oversight of regulatory institutions such as the SEC. CFO.com notes that in a recent paper called "Targeting Corporate Political Strategy: Theory and Evidence from the U.S. Accounting Industry," Vanden Bergh analyzed the corporate strategy of the accounting profession when Democrats took over in 1992, following Bill Clinton's election. His paper argues that firms in the early 1990s made their donations with the intent of directly influencing policy decisions, though he acknowledges another theory that says firms simply shift their donations to the party with the most influence. "It could easily be that the shift in power is driving the shift in contributions," he says. "If Obama or Clinton wins, it will be the first time in eight years that Democrats control all three branches and it would likely [cause] a major shift."

Awards and Honors Three members of the department of pediatrics will serve in national editorial leadership roles as part of an upcoming change at *Pediatrics*, the peer-reviewed journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and preeminent journal in the world in its field. Dr. **Jerold Lucey**, Wallace Professor of Neonatology and *Pediatrics* editor-in-chief for the past 34 years, will step down as of January 2009 and become editor-in-chief emeritus. Stepping up as the new deputy editor will be Dr. **Lewis**

First, professor and chair of pediatrics and senior associate dean for medical education. In addition, Dr. **Jeffrey Horbar**, Lucey Chair of Neonatal Medicine, will become one of three new associate editors for the journal.

Robert Karp, associate professor in the department of medicine and a leader and innovator in clinical care and education with a specialty in geriatrics, has been named a 2009-2010 Frymoyer Scholar for his project titled, "Improving Basic Medical Student Competencies in Clinical Geriatrics."

April 9, 2008

Publications and Presentations

Dr. **Magdalena Naylor**, associate professor of psychiatry and director of the MindBody Medicine Clinic, is lead author of a February 2008 article in the journal *Pain* titled "Therapeutic Interactive Voice Response for chronic pain reduction and relapse prevention." Co-authors on the paper include Dr. **John Helzer**, professor of psychiatry and director of the Health Behavior Research Center, and **Shelly Naud**, researcher/analyst in the department of medical biostatistics.

Kevin C. H. Chiang, associate professor of business administration, co-authored an article with Kirill Kozhevnikov, Ming-Long Lee and Craig Wisen that was published in the spring, 2008 issue of *Real Estate Economics*. The article is titled "Further Evidence on the Performance of Funds of Funds: The Case of Real Estate Mutual Funds." The study examines funds of funds that are created when investment companies invest in other investment companies. Although the additional layer of fees incurred by funds of funds has a negative effect on returns, there is empirical evidence that real estate funds of funds generate superior performance net of fees and risk adjustments. The evidence is inconsistent with a growing consensus that most actively managed mutual funds do not, on average, generate excess returns after adjusting for fees and risk. This study explains this apparent contradiction and finds that most real estate funds of funds do not outperform their benchmarks under alternative risk adjustment specifications.

The March 2008 issue of *NIDA Notes* from the National Institute on Drug Abuse featured an article titled "Combination Treatment Extends Marijuana Abstinence" that focused on research by **Stephen Higgins**, professor of psychiatry and psychology and co-director of the Human Behavioral Pharmacology Lab and Substance Abuse Treatment Center, and colleagues. The research team found that using a combination of vouchers and cognitive-behavioral therapy may be more effective in keeping marijuana abusers abstinent in the longer term than vouchers-only and CBT-only programs.

Awards and Honors

Valerie Esposito, a doctoral student in natural resources and ecological economics, has been selected to participate in the Advanced Graduate Workshop on Poverty, Development and Globalization, organized jointly by Columbia University's Initiative for Policy Dialogue (IPD) and University of Manchester's Brooks World Poverty Institute (BWPI). The highly selective, all-expense paid workshop (10 percent acceptance rate) will be held in the summer of 2008. The acceptance letter was signed by Nobel Laureate Joseph Stiglitz.

Tian Xia, assistant professor in engineering, is one of 17 faculty from universities around the world including Singapore, Toronto, Gosudarstvennyi Upravleniya, Georgia, California, Illinois, Michigan, Iowa, Massachusetts, Colorado, and New York, who received the prestigious 2008 IBM Faculty Award. This competitive worldwide program is intended to foster collaboration between researchers at leading worldwide universities with IBM research, development and services organizations. The IBM Faculty Awards recognize full-time professors at accredited universities with Ph.D or MBA programs promoting courseware and curriculum innovation to stimulate growth in disciplines and geographies that are strategic to IBM. Xia received this award for his extensive research on mixed signal VLSI circuit design and test, adaptive and multifunctional VLSI Design, and Reconfigurable FPGA Design and Testing. He is a member of IEEE- Computer Society and IEEE- Solid State Circuits Society. "This internationally competitive award highlights the importance of industry alliances with education," says Domenico Grasso, Dean of the UVM College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences.

April 2, 2008

Publications and Presentations

Jane Okech, assistant professor in the Graduate Counseling Program, is scheduled to present two papers at the Annual American Counseling Association Conference in Honolulu, Hawaii on March 27-31. Both papers are based on empirical studies: "Doctoral Research Training of Counselor Education Faculty" and "The experiences of expert group work supervisors: An exploratory study."

Russell Tracy, professor of pathology and biochemistry and senior associate dean for research and academic affairs at the College of Medicine, is a co-author on an article in the March 27 *New England Journal of Medicine* titled "Coronary Calcium as a Predictor of Coronary Events in Four Racial or Ethnic Groups." Tracy heads up the central laboratory for the Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis (MESA), which is a long-term, multicenter study designed to locate

and identify genes contributing to the genetic risk of subclinical cardiovascular disease (CVD) and evaluate the impact of lifestyle and environment on the expression of these genetic components of CVD.

Kathleen Liang, associate professor of community development and applied economics has given presentations at multiple conferences around the country in 2008. She started by presenting on "Are Entrepreneurs Optimistic, Realistic, Both or Fuzzy? The Relationship Between Entrepreneurial Traits and Entrepreneurial Learning" at Academy of Entrepreneurship, Allied Academies where she won the Outstanding Research Award. She gave also presented at the National Collegiate Inventors & Innovators Alliance (NCIIA) annual conference in Dallas in March on "An Interactive Workshop: Thinking Outside The Box, But Where Is The Box?" She also gave presentations at the U.S. Association of Small Business and Entrepreneurship Annual Meeting in San Antonio titled "A Life Case: Growing Vermont: The Student-Run Retail Shop on UVM Campus" and "Interactive Workshop: Who And Where Are Entrepreneurship Professors?"

Faculty members in the School of Business Administration will be presenting papers at the annual meeting of the Academy of Management in Anaheim, California in August, 2008. **David Jones**, assistant professor, is presenting a study in which he found that Business Administration majors who received training in business ethics demonstrated advancements in their stages of cognitive-moral development relative to a control group. In a second paper, Jones and his co-authors (Joseph Schmidt and Derek Chapman, University of Calgary) conducted a field experiment in which they manipulated the wording of on-line job advertisements to emphasize different aspects of employee-organization fit. Results showed that certain kinds of fit-information significantly increased the size and quality of the applicant pool for engineering and other professional positions. **Mark Youndt**, associate professor, and his co-authors (Caroline D'Abate, Skidmore College, and Kathryn Wenzel, Vitale, Caturano, and Company) will present a study in which they examined the influence of job characteristics, work environment characteristics, and other contextual factors on the satisfaction and learning of student interns in a broad array of for-profit and not-for-profit organizations.

March 26, 2008

Publications and Presentations

David Jones, assistant professor of business administration, and his coauthors, Drs. Neil Fassina and Krista Uggerslev (Asper School of Business, University of Manitoba) had an article published in the most recent issue of the *Journal of Management*. The article was

titled: "Relationship Clean-up Time: Using Meta-analysis and Path Analysis to Clarify the Relationships among Job Satisfaction, Perceived Fairness, and Citizenship Behaviors." The authors tested competing theoretical frameworks to explain the pattern of relationships among employees' perceptions of fairness, job satisfaction, and five types of job behaviors that can be collectively described as "going above and beyond the call of duty." The authors found greatest support for an independent effects model, which suggests that managers can promote cooperative work behavior by fostering three separate types of perceived fairness as well as general job satisfaction.

Garrison Nelson, professor of political science, was interviewed during the Vermont presidential primary by CNN, Associated Press, TIME Magazine, the *Wall Street Journal*, National Public Radio, La Presse (Que.), Vermont Public Radio, New England Cable News three times, WPTZ-TV (4), Fox 44 News (3), the *Boston Globe* twice, the *Providence Journal*, the *Burlington Free Press*, the *Bennington Banner*, and *Vermont Woman*.

A number of faculty from the department of radiology received awards for their educational posters at the 93rd Scientific Assembly and Annual Meeting of the Radiological Society of North America held November 25-30, 2007 in Chicago. The following poster presentations won awards: "Imaging Findings of Adipose Tissue in and around the Heart: A Matter of Fat" received a Cum Laude award in the category of educational exhibit. Co-authors included Dr.

Diego Lemos, clinical instructor in radiology, Dr. **Julio Lemos**, clinical instructor in radiology, Dr. **Jeffrey Klein**, professor of radiology, Dr. **Curtis Green**, professor of radiology, Dr. **George Gentchos**, clinical assistant professor of radiology, and Dr. **Peter Dietrich**, professor of radiology; "CT Findings of Grown-Up Congenital Heart Disease" received a Cum Laude award in the category of educational exhibit. Co-authors included Dr. **Julio Lemos**, Dr. **Diego Lemos**, Dr. **Curtis Green**,

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