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## The Way We Wore



Well-dressed: Professor Martin Thaler wants his costuming students to begin with the play's text and end up with work that melds their creativity with the playwright's vision. *(Photo: Sally McCay)*

Walking into Martin Thaler's "Fundamentals of Costuming" class is not what you expect. No gold and scarlet fabric is flying, no scissors swim through silks and satins while soundtracks from Broadway musicals play in the background.

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### THE WEEK IN VIEW

Nov. 15, 4:30 p.m. The Dan and Carol Burack President's Distinguished Lecture Series: Alice Amsden, Barton L. Weller Professor of Political Economy at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will give a talk titled, "Escape from Empire: The Developing World's Journey through Heaven and Hell." Billings Marsh Lounge. Information: 656-0173.

Nov. 15, 7:30 p.m. Concert: The UVM Jazz Ensemble will perform a retrospective of the big band orchestras of Duke Ellington and Count Basie. Music Building Recital Hall. Information: 656-7776.

Nov. 27, 5:30 p.m. Lecture: James A. Dobbin, Landscape Architect and Regional Planner, will speak on "Advances in Regional Development Planning: Madagascar, Mozambique, and Cuba," as part of the Roland Batten Architecture Lecture series. Williams, Building 301.

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## The Way We Wore

By Sarah Tuff

Article published November 9, 2007



Well-dressed: Professor Martin Thaler wants his costuming students to begin with the play's text and end up with work that melds their creativity with the playwright's vision. (Photo: Sally McCay)

Walking into Martin Thaler's "Fundamentals of Costuming" class is not what you expect. No gold and scarlet fabric is flying, no scissors swim through silks and satins while soundtracks from Broadway musicals play in the background.

Instead, Room 210 in the Royall Tyler Theatre has vanilla-bland walls with only thin strips of sunlight straining through the windows. The only splashes of color are from the assorted Gatorade and Nalgene bottles and Green Mountain Coffee cups set in front of the 15 or so students. On the dusty chalkboard reads a quote not from Andrew Lloyd Webber or Mel Brooks, but Teddy Roosevelt. And the only sound, beyond the crackling of tracing paper and the occasional squeak of a repositioned chair, is Thaler.

Like the classroom, Thaler's advice on costume design is not what you expect. "Read the play," urges the professor of theatre, referring to the students' booklets of *Arsenic and Old Lace*. "Read it again. And read it until you know it."

For 25 years, Martin Thaler has been dressing UVM up for hundreds of productions from *The Maid of Judah* to *The Toys Take Over Christmas*. But in order to share the secrets of the stage with students, the Kroepsch-Maurice Excellence in Teaching Award winner prefers to dress down. It's not only Thaler's attire — blue jeans and a blue polo shirt — that goes back to the basics, but also his approach.

"There's so much research that goes into it," says Kate Godkin, a junior theater major who reports that Thaler's teaching has given her the confidence to draw and paint, skills she never thought she could learn. "He's really encouraging — one step at a time."

### A tale of two (or three) cities

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Thaler's first significant steps into theater were as a teenager living in Ridgefield, N.J. When school let out, he'd take the 10-minute bus trip to Manhattan with \$5 for a matinee and \$10 for an evening show. "I was in awe of it all," says Thaler. "I loved musicals and was just amazed at the art and craft. It's changed over the years, but the thing that's always stayed the same is the sense of awe in the final product."

After receiving his undergraduate degree at St. Michael's College, Thaler earned a M.F.A. in design at Penn State, fully committed to becoming a professional designer but finding himself increasingly attracted to teaching. As a research institution, UVM offered the chance to work and teach. "It was the best of both worlds," says Thaler, who moved back to the Green Mountains in 1983. "I didn't have to choose — wow."

The past two and a half decades have seen Thaler weave his experiences in the professional field into the classroom at UVM. His credits include working with the Muppets in New York and designing *Shogun* costumes at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., to millinery at the Theatre by the Sea in Matunuck, Rhode Island, and styling for *Wall Street Week* on Maryland Public Television.

Last year, Thaler brought his students to New York City to work with an off-Broadway director. "The success of the teacher is really what the students are doing, and that was a day where it was really wonderful to see them take such pride in the work they were doing," says Thaler. "It gave them a sense of value in their work and the whole process of collaboration."

### **Tinker, tailor**

Inside Room 210, a student reads aloud the Roosevelt quote: "In any moment of decision the best thing you can do is the right thing. The worst thing you can do is nothing." Thaler threads this sentiment into his own emphasis on the importance of research in costume design, holding up an old *Saturday Evening Post* illustrating T.R. The lecture unfurls into a discussion of Boris Karloff, McCall patterns, heretical directors and moldy basements. "Anybody know what a solar toupee looks like?" asks Thaler, using a version of an alternative name for a pith helmet.

This is where the color and drama — the expected elements — come into Thaler's teaching. They come from his own passion for the story behind the story, and they animate the students just as watercolors on canvas or costumes on an actor would.

"On one page of a play, there can be up to 10 different circumstances which tell you about character," says Spencer Leopold-Cohen, a sophomore theater major. "He understands that this is a really hard process and that it takes time and focus."

For Thaler, costume design represents a knitting together of several liberal arts fields: psychology, sociology, economics, religion and more. One of his regular classes is now "Beginning Drawing" during which, Thaler says, he aims to untie the hands of those who

thought they could never learn how to draw. Through these lessons, students learn that they can indeed become working artists who can turn visions into reality.

“To me, it’s a treasure hunt,” Thaler says. “It’s all about blending the history and research and the imagination of theater into the construction and design process. And you’re finding a way to express your own vision through somebody else’s.”



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## Dancing Dreams

By Jennifer Nachbur

Article published November 14, 2007



UVM alumna Joann Ferrara blends ballerina dreams and physical therapy knowledge to support children with disabilities. (Photo: Greg Miller)

Given all those captivating pirouettes, pliés and pink tutus, it's no wonder little girls, even those in wheelchairs and with leg braces, dream about becoming dancers. So when one of Joann Ferrara's physical therapy patients said, "I want to be a ballerina," Ferrara set out to

make it happen.

Ferrara, a 1978 UVM graduate who recently came back to campus to speak and meet with students, founded "Dancing Dreams: Ballet for Every Child" in 2003. The Bayside, N.Y.-based program creates an environment where children with physical disabilities can experience the pleasure of dancing via artistic and therapeutic movements customized to their individual capabilities. The program's motto is "be proud of what you can do." Ferrara's first five ballerinas could not stand or sit independently, so the physical therapist enlisted high school student volunteers to assist the children and make the dance lessons possible.

The class was an immediate hit, and over the next four years, enrollment in the program has grown steadily from 5 to 8 to 21 students and is expected to reach 30 by January 2008. Ferrara has grown as well, broadening her specialization in one-on-one work with children with neuromuscular disorders to include media advocacy. Stories about Dancing Dreams have appeared in the *New York Times*, *Ladies' Home Journal*, *People* and on WNBC-TV, with the *Times* article prompting a publisher to approach Ferrara about a children's book. Called *Ballerina Dreams* and released this October, the book was written by author Lauren Thompson with Ferrara's assistance.

"This program is based on abilities, not disabilities," says Ferrara, summing up the philosophy that has resonated with the public.

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### **Tutus and PT**

Practicing in community space at the decommissioned army base Fort Totten, Ferrara stores ballet barres in the basement and totes tutus back and forth from her nearby office to make sure her students are equipped as well as children taking any other dance class. Ferrara herself teaches in the ballet instructor's requisite black leotard. Students face the barre, with assistance, and practice a variety of specially adapted steps and positions.

"It's really become another form of therapy, because they push themselves," says Ferrara. The students, who have a variety of diagnoses including cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy and brain injury, set their own physical goals. One child, a girl with spina bifida, took her first steps in ballet and is now walking with crutches and independently. "They are amazing with each other," Ferrara says. "It's incredible — they cheer each other on, they're really proud of one another."

A gymnast in high school and college, Ferrara came to UVM from Long Island and majored in physical therapy in the former School of Allied Health. Two of her physical therapy professors — Lee Nelson and Diane Jette from the department of rehabilitation and movement sciences — hosted her UVM visit. In addition to her ongoing physical therapy work and training, Ferrara has studied dance throughout her adulthood, a blend that has been critical to her work with the special troupe.

"It's 50-50 PT and dance," explains Ferrara, who must train the volunteer helpers to guard and guide the girls through each of the dance moves.

### **Parties and pride**

Each ballerina's personal accomplishment, each group recital is a reward for Ferrara. But a special high point came recently when she, her original five ballerinas and author Lauren Thompson participated in a book publication party, complete with red carpet and live television news coverage, at a Barnes and Noble. The next day, Ferrara was in Vermont, reading her book to an elementary school class in Hinesburg, talking to physical therapy students, faculty and patient families at UVM, and doing a book signing.

The program, Ferrara says, has grown and succeeded despite an initial lack of structure. "I had no vision," she admits. "I said, 'I'm going to try this out with these five girls and see what happens.' If I would have thought about it, I would have established a nonprofit first."

It all came together anyway and, despite holding only one class per week, the students presented their first recital in April 2006. On Nov. 11, the group presented a full production of *The Nutcracker* at the Mary Lewis Academy, a Queens Catholic high school where Ferrara recruits her volunteers.

Ferrara is pushing to go farther. By next September, she hopes the program will have its own rehearsal space. With legal counseling support from the Princess Grace Foundation, she will establish the

program as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt charitable organization. In the long term, she would like to expand Dancing Dreams to more places and more children.

"It's incredible," Ferrara says of the feelings the work engenders in her. "You look up at the stage at the end of a recital, at the faces of the dancers and the helpers, how proud they all are. That's what it's all about."



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## INTERview: Dr. Robert Shapiro

By Kevin Foley

Article published November 14, 2007

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"Headache on the Hill:" College of Medicine neurologist Robert Shapiro is lobbying for more attention (and funds) for headache disorders, which are common and often disabling. (File photo: Adam Riesner)

television cameras were present). The event brought 45 headache doctors, researchers and patients to lobby congress for a correction of what the associate professor of neurology and director of the Fletcher Allen headache clinic calls a "glaring disparity:" Thirty-six million Americans suffer from migraine, \$20 billion in work is lost to migraine and headache disorders each year, and yet only an infinitesimal percentage of National Institutes of Health's total funding is devoted to headache disorders. Below, the view and Shapiro discuss the politics, science and stigma of severe headaches.

**THE VIEW: One of your catchphrases at presentations has been "migraine is not headache." What is it then?**

DR. ROBERT SHAPIRO: Patients who have migraine suffer tremendously from the confusion between a symptom, which can occur in the disorder they have, and the actual disorder that they have. Migraine is a state of the brain. It is better thought of as comparable to other brain states, be it waking, sleeping, anxious or depressed or whatever. This state has certain symptoms. Headache is the dominant symptom for most people; it's the one that brings patients to see doctors and prompts drug companies to make products, but you don't have to have headache for it to be migraine. Migraine has many other symptoms and manifestations. It affects approximately 36 million Americans, three quarters of them women, and it is extraordinarily disabling. But as a consequence of the fact that less severe conditions having headache as a symptom are very common, there is often an assumption that if someone is

One migraine blog likened him to "Mr. Smith" – Jimmy Stewart's famous citizen-Senator cinematic crusader. But Dr. Robert Shapiro's recent visit to Washington, for a marathon day of lobbying he co-developed and organized dubbed "Headache on the Hill," offered more data than drama (although many

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complaining about a migraine headache, it may be as mild as, say, a tension headache.

**One of the characteristics of this complex state of migraine is a lot of variability in the symptoms. But can you generalize what migraine is like for people?**

Migraine as an entity is as diverse in the way it shows itself as there are individuals. But certain symptoms are so very common that they are important in helping to make the diagnosis. Those include headache that tends to be throbbing and moderate-to-severe in intensity. It tends to be on one side of the head, often without a preference for left or right. There might be increased sensitivity to sounds, which can become harsh and painful; increased sensitivity to even dim light, which can become unbearably glaring during migraine; a light touch can become painful; movements of the head can cause vertigo. So general distortions of perception can occur. Then there are changes in the ability of the body to be regulated and controlled by the brain. People will experience problems with nasal congestion, nausea, diarrhea, indigestion, etc.

**Where are we at in terms of treatment?**

There are various things we do to try to help people who have this problem. The approach is based upon the particulars of individual patients: how often they have it, how severe, how disabling. There are certain circumstances that make migraine more likely to be provoked, so, if possible, it can be very important and useful to try to adjust lifestyle to avoid these types of exposures, be it caffeine in beverages, cigarette smoking, or having irregular bed and waking times. There are also behavioral approaches like biofeedback that can be helpful. We have some quite good medications for treating migraine when it occurs. In 1992, the first of a new class of medicines called triptans became available; they are quite effective but still leave about 40 percent of people without benefit. And then we have preventative medications as well.

All migraine medications currently approved by the FDA were originally developed for some other purpose and then found just accidentally to be helpful for migraine. The last time there was a medication developed specifically for prevention of migraine was 1963. We have far fewer choices in terms of therapies than patients with migraine deserve, given how prevalent and disabling the problem is. Migraine, and headache in general, is responsible for about \$20 billion a year in lost labor, about nine percent of all lost labor in the United States. In terms of total disability, over one percent of disability is a consequence just of migraine.

**And yet an infinitesimal percentage of federal health research funding is devoted to headache. Why are migraine and headache relatively underrated in terms of research and drug development?**

Part of it is that people who have never experienced migraine tend to make assumptions about what people with migraine experience. Part of it may have to do with the fact that migraine afflicts women

much more than men. When attitudes about migraine were hardened, physicians were almost exclusively men, and there may be a very entrenched form of sexism and a cultural expectation that people should endure pain. This stigma may have made patients with migraine somewhat more reluctant to advocate for themselves. In 2006, the National Institutes of Health spent \$10 million on headache research — less than .05 percent of the NIH's total funding. This amount is not adequate, and it is not proportional to the prevalence and severity of migraine and other headache disorders.

**Is that disparity what led to your own activism — and the "Headache on the Hill" lobbying event you helped organize in Washington, D.C.?**

I had been speaking with our congressional delegation for several years about the underfunding issue. Then, last January, I took part in a leadership forum through the American Academy of Neurology along with my colleague, Dr. Kathy Gardner of the University of Pittsburgh. The focus of our work there was to develop an action plan to try to organize the community of physicians, researchers and patients to do something about the glaring disparity. We were able to secure the support of 12 national and international organizations, and we recruited 45 scientists and physicians and a few leaders of patient advocacy groups to go to Washington and meet with lawmakers in late September. We collectively visited 137 offices from 29 states.

**What kind of day was it like with all that speaking and meeting? Tiring?**

It was a fabulous day, and of course each person involved only went to a few offices. We focused on those lawmakers who are on committees responsible for authorizing or appropriating the NIH budget.

**What did you ask them for?**

Based on our analysis of other diseases, migraine should be funded in excess of \$100 million annually — and that's a low estimate based on NIH spending. Other statistics (tracking the disability caused by migraine) might indicate \$150 million per year should be spent on headache disorders. The numbers are stark and dramatic and almost preposterous. So we're asking Congress to move to \$100 million in funding for headache over the next five years. This is an extraordinary request, going from about \$10 million to \$100 million, even if it's directly proportional to the unmet need.

This is a tough climate to seek funding in. So what are we going to have to do in the near term to succeed at this? Congress does not typically earmark funding to one disorder over another. But it does indicate sentiments of its priorities in so-called "report language" (printed information that accompanies a congressional statute but does not carry the force of law). We're optimistic in terms of our discussions with the Vermont delegation and others that we will have a public hearing on this issue and get some report language

next year. We are also developing a Website — Headacheadvocacy.org — that will be online soon and that will help recruit patients and others as grassroots advocates and offer software tools to help them contact their representatives easily.

**How is research going? Are we making progress despite the funding issues, or is this a relatively stagnant time?**

Remarkably, in spite of the funding shortage, which has been dire, the small group of headache researchers has made considerable progress in terms of understanding the genetic basis of migraine. There has been other significant progress in spite of the budgets, and we can only imagine what things would be like if we were more fully funded. But it's an opportune time for change. We have some very promising new angles to pursue. But we have to get the budgets in line. About 10 years ago, NIH was poised to double its budget, and during that time allocations for headache disorder fell even further behind. Now, given shrinking or stagnant budgets for funding sources, it will be a great challenge to bring headache disorders up to the level patients deserve. But it's a matter of equity; it's a matter of having headache patients receive fair access to the benefits of publicly funded research. Headache is still trivialized and stigmatized.

**Do you have personal experience of that yourself, as someone who suffers with migraine?**

I don't have migraine to the extent that it is disabling. But it gives me insight into what people are experiencing; it lets me see the other side. It's also true, that while I don't carry the stigma of the disease itself, within the realm of neurology people who care for patients with headache are somewhat looked down upon; for some neurologists, headache is not considered to be a suitable pursuit. This comes down to denial of certain kinds of pain rooted deep in medical culture. When a woman comes to see a male physician, especially decades ago, and there are no physical abnormalities, there was (and is) a tendency to dismiss the problem. That's wrong, and it's one of the attitudes that effective advocacy can help dismiss.



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## McNair Scholars Program Wins \$1.15 Million Grant

By Lee Ann Cox

*Article published November 14, 2007*

The UVM McNair Scholars Program, which prepares undergraduate students for doctoral studies by facilitating one-on-one relationships with faculty, recently won a highly competitive grant renewal from the U.S. Department of Education. The four-year, \$1.15 million award will widen the program's support of the academic aspirations of first-generation, limited-income and underrepresented college students.

Graduates of UVM's McNair program have gone on to graduate studies at Middlebury College, the University of Pennsylvania, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and elsewhere. The effort, which is now in its fourth year, is one of only four McNair programs in New England.

"Receiving this second cycle of funding is the result of a lot of hard work in many areas, least of which is the collaboration between all colleges and schools at UVM, their deans and chairs, and faculty from multiple departments," said Jim Vigoreaux, a professor of biology and director of the program. "McNair is a campus-wide program that enriches young lives and provides amazing scholarly opportunities. Its growing presence on this campus also serves to showcase UVM's commitment to diversity."

The federal Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, which is one of the Department of Education's TRIO Programs, is intended to assist limited-income and first-generation college students and individuals from ethnic groups underrepresented in graduate studies as they build the skills and confidence necessary to pursue a doctoral degree. At UVM, the McNair program is a highly selective effort aimed at undergraduates who demonstrate excellent academic performance, a potential for graduate school achievement, and a strong desire to pursue a career in which a doctorate is required. Each McNair Scholar receives academic advising, coaching and consultation to develop academic achievement, professional presentation and research skills. Scholars also complete paid summer research internships with faculty mentors.

Since UVM inception in the spring of 2004, the McNair Program has served 41 students and is in the process of recruiting a new class. Students apply during either their sophomore or junior years and are selected based upon their academic performance, a personal essay, a research interest statement, an interview, commitment to

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attaining a doctoral degree and faculty recommendations. Students or faculty interested in participating in the program should e-mail [mcnair@uvm.edu](mailto:mcnair@uvm.edu), visit the website at [UVM McNair Program](#) or call 656-4546.



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## Awards Recognize MBA Program's Environmental Posture, Opportunities for Women

By Communications Staff

*Article published November 14, 2007*

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The School of Business Administration's MBA program ranked among the nation's best for integrating social and environmental issues in the Aspen Institute's top 100 list and also was named by The Princeton Review as one of the top 10 for opportunities for women.

The Aspen Institute, an international nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering enlightened leadership and open-minded dialogue, ranked UVM 78th among its "Global Top 100 Schools" list in the 2007-2008 edition of "Beyond Grey Pinstripes," a biennial survey and alternative ranking of business schools. The university was cited for demonstrating significant leadership in integrating social and environmental issues into its MBA program.

"This recognition helps reinforce the university's positioning as an environmental university," says Rocki-Lee DeWitt, dean of the School of Business Administration.

The institute's survey results, based on data provided by 71 schools in the U.S. and 40 international schools from 18 countries, identified a number of notable features, including the UVM-MBA program's required course on the "Fundamentals of the Legal Environment of Business" and other electives such as "The Environment and Sustainable Business." The program's social and environmentally related activities, including speakers and seminars, the Vermont Family Business Initiative and a relationship with UVM's Gund Institute for Ecological Economics, were also noted.

The university will be featured on the [Beyondgreypinstripes.org](http://Beyondgreypinstripes.org) site, which includes the complete rankings of the 2007-2008 "Global 100" business schools. UVM will also appear in the Aspen Institute's upcoming "Alternative Guide to MBA Programs."

The Princeton Review, a New York-based education services company, ranked UVM No. 6 in its "Greatest Opportunity for Women" category in the 2008 edition of Best 290 Business Schools. The ranking is based on the representation of female students and faculty within the program and students' own assessments of the supportive climate for female students.

In the profile on UVM, the Princeton Review editors describe the program in the following way: "The student body boasts a solid contingent of engineers as well as a sizeable international

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population. With approximately 70 students in the program, UVM can offer its MBA students all the personal attention they desire. Plus, with a large university (and large university resources) looming in the background, UVM MBAs can benefit from interaction with other programs. Students attending say the program allows 'a healthy balance of work and leisure. Full-timers and part-timers mingle well despite being in different life stages.'"



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## Nov. 15 Distinguished Lectures Will Cover Political Economy and Multidisciplinary Research

By The View Staff

*Article published November 14, 2007*

Two of the university's most prestigious lecture series, the Dan and Carole Burack President's Distinguished Lecture Series and the Dean of the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences Distinguished Lecture Series, will present speakers on Thursday, Nov. 15.

Alice Amsden, Barton L. Weller Professor of Political Economy at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will give a Burack lecture at 4:30 in Marsh Lounge, Billings. The title of her talk is "Escape from Empire: The Developing World's Journey through Heaven and Hell."

C.C. Wood, vice president of the Santa Fe Institute, will give the engineering dean's lecture at 4 p.m. in North Lounge, Billings. His title is "Stimulating Multi-Disciplinary Research: Experiences of the Santa Fe Institute."

Amsden has served as a consultant with the World Bank, OECD and various United Nations organizations. She has written extensively on problems of industrial transformation in East Africa, East Asia and Eastern Europe. Her talk is drawn from her recent eponymous MIT Press book, which argues that the U.S. once pursued economic development with flexible policies but more recently has adopted a rigid (and less effective) approach. Meanwhile, countries like India and China that have pursued their own policies have boomed.

Wood left the Yale faculty to lead the biophysics group at Los Alamos National Laboratory and then moved to the Santa Fe Institute in 2005. His talk will explain the institute's approach to stimulating transformative, multi-disciplinary research, emphasizing the important roles of "bottom-up" scientist-to-scientist collaborations, the posing of provocative and productive questions, and using a strong grounding in traditional disciplines as a base for transcending them.

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Walking into Martin Thaler's "Fundamentals of Costuming" class is not what you expect. No gold and scarlet fabric is flying, no scissors swim through silks and satins while soundtracks from Broadway musicals play in the background.

#### [Dancing Dreams](#)

Given all those captivating pirouettes, pliés and pink tutus, it's no wonder little girls, even those in wheelchairs and with leg braces, dream about becoming dancers. So when one of alumna Joann Ferrara's physical therapy patients said, "I want to be a ballerina," Ferrara set out to make it happen.

#### [Headache Q+A](#)

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## Planner Will Discuss Ways of Melding Landscape, Community and Development

By The View Staff

Article published November 14, 2007

The eighth annual Roland Batten Memorial Lecture on Architecture and Design will be presented by James Dobbin, an innovative regional and landscape planner who works in international development, on Tuesday, Nov. 27, at 5:30 p.m. in 301 Williams Hall, with a reception to follow.

Dobbin will discuss "Advances in Regional Development Planning in Madagascar, Mozambique and Cuba." Over the past 30 years, Dobbin has implemented hundreds of innovative regional and landscape planning projects for land, coastal, and ocean environments in more than 40 countries around the world. His approach is founded on broad-based spatial analyses that help regions build local capacity with new approaches and knowledge. His work applies Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology and satellite imagery as key information sources, and it facilitates community participation at all levels, resulting in informed leaders who become skilled in implementing their plans.

Dobbin will illustrate his work with examples of projects in Madagascar, Mozambique, and Cuba, all providing insights and solutions for poverty alleviation and regional growth strategies. While integrating the work of multiple sectors, the Dobbin planning process substitutes typical separate sector-specific plans with integrated multisectoral strategies and action plans.

His lecture and reception are sponsored by the Roland Batten Memorial Fund (part of The Vermont Community Foundation), Truex/Cullens and Partners Architects, and UVM's Visiting Artists, Art Critics and Art Historian's Lecture Series.

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FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

## NOTABLES

Nov. 14, 2007

### Publications and Presentations

A study co-authored by **Kathleen Trybus** and **Susan Lowey**, professors of molecular physiology and biophysics, titled "The R403Q Myosin Mutation Implicated in Familial Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Causes Disorder at the Actomyosin Interface" appeared in the Nov. 12 issue of *PLoS ONE*, an international, peer-reviewed, open-access, online publication published by the Public Library of Science (PLOS), a nonprofit organization.

**Garrison Nelson**, professor of political science, gave a lecture on "Presidential Selection and the New Hampshire Primary" at the University of New Hampshire on Oct. 31. An op-ed article written by Nelson titled "Border Wars in Fight for the Presidency" appeared in the *Boston Globe* on Nov. 3. Nelson also gave two presentations at the Northeastern Political Science Association Annual Meeting in Philadelphia on Nov. 17, including a roundtable discussion on "The Presidential Selection System: Is It Broken?" and a professional paper titled "Middlemen No More: Emergent Patterns in Congressional Leadership Selection." A shorter version will be published in 2008 in *P.S.: Political Science and Politics*, a journal of the American Political Science Association.

**Dennis Clougherty**, professor of physics, gave an invited lecture at Harvard University's Institute for Theoretical Atomic, Molecular and Optical Physics. The lecture, "Fluctuation-induced Quantum Reflection," was part of an international workshop on the phenomenon of quantum reflection. Quantum reflection is a classically counterintuitive phenomenon whereby the motion of particles is reverted "against the force" acting on them. This effect is manifested in the wave nature of particles and influences collisions of ultra-cold atoms with solid surfaces, a topic of increasing importance in the emerging field of quantum information processing.

**David Kerr**, associate professor in the Department of Animal Science, gave a presentation entitled, "Genomic Responses of the Bovine Mammary Gland and Epithelial Cells to Acute LPS Challenge" with coauthors **Melissa Latshaw**, **Ravi Pareek** and **Jun Zheng**, research assistants in the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, and **Jeffrey Bond**, research associate professor of microbiology and molecular genetics, at the International Veterinary Immunology Symposium held in Ouro Preto, Brazil.

### Awards and Honors

November 14, 2007  
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Three Dana Medical Library employees received 2007 University Libraries Faculty and Staff Excellence Awards. **Sandra Aldrich**, library support senior, received the Delmar Janes Staff Excellence Award for her exemplary work in the acquisitions and cataloging department. **Angie Chapple-Sokol**, library assistant professor in the reference department, received the Faculty Excellence in Educational Mission (Teaching & Advising) Award. **Frances Delwiche**, library assistant professor in the reference department, received an award for Faculty Excellence in Research. **Marcie Crocker** from Bailey/Howe Library received the second Staff Excellence Award. Awards were presented by **Mara Saule**, dean of libraries and learning resources.

**Joel Shapiro**, director of the Employee Assistance and Lifetime Wellness Programs, was elected president of the International Association of Employee Assistance Programs in Education (IAEPE). The International Association of EAPs in Education is an autonomous, nonprofit association of employee assistance professionals working in employee assistance programs in K-12, community colleges, colleges and universities. The association serves as the forum in which knowledge, resources and experiences gained from providing EAP services in educational settings are shared.

**Sarah Friend** has been nominated as one of ten finalists for The Vermont Teddy Bear Company's 7th Annual Vermont Student Citizen Award. The Annapolis, Md., native is being recognized for her volunteer work with Students Engaged in Environmental Services (SEEDS). Friend has been involved with SEEDS for five semesters promoting environmental responsibility to youth across Vermont. She teaches about environmental topics and the importance of the environment to our future. In addition to working with SEEDS, Friend is a UVM Volunteer in Action, and participates in the Alternative Spring Break Program. Created by the Vermont Teddy Bear Company in cooperation with Vermont Campus Compact, Vermont Higher Education Council and *Vermont Life* magazine, the award recognizes the outstanding community service contributions many Vermont college students make in the community to nonprofit groups and civic organizations.

UVM's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute has been selected as a recipient of the 2007 Governor's Healthy Aging Award in the program champion category. The awards will be presented on Nov. 20 at the Vermont Statehouse.

*Nov. 7, 2007*

### **Publications and Presentations**

**Tom Simone**, associate professor of English, recently published his translation of Dante's *Inferno* with commentary for students and the general reader. The translation strives to present a clear and faithful rendering of the original Italian, and the annotations in footnotes offer succinct glossing of the major historical and cultural references that need to be understood to appreciate the poem. The edition includes a general introduction to Dante and his world, and