

NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

UVM HOMEPAGE

[President and Professor](#)



Professor Huck Gutman is teaching modern poetry with President Daniel Mark Fogel this semester and enjoying the collaboration. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

Daniel Fogel walks to the front of the lecture hall, pulls out his cell phone from a suit pocket and stabs it off to cement the transition from president to professor. He strolls to the center of the room, greets the class, and begins to talk Yeats.

[FULL STORY](#) ▶

PREVIOUS ISSUE

[Brennan Announces Retirement at End of 2004-2005 Season](#)

[Burning Anxiety](#)

[Special Collections Book Auction Sets Records](#)

[Faculty Receive Service-Learning Grants](#)

[Cohen to Read on Nov. 18](#)

[Science of Smell Keynote Topic for Neuroscience Forum](#)

[Event Officially Launches University Heights Construction](#)

[Student Fulbright](#)

[Royall Tyler Presents Neil Simon Play 'Rumors'](#)

[Redefining Rehab](#)

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[Trustees Report](#)

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THE WEEK IN VIEW

Nov. 17, 7:30 p.m.
Concert: UVM Lane Series presents pianist "Pedja Muzijevic." UVM Recital Hall. Tickets: \$25. Information: [Lane Series](#)

Nov. 18, 2:30 p.m.
Panel: "What it Means to be a Man: Masculinities Across Cultures," with UVM faculty. John Dewey Lounge, Old Mill. Information: [Panel](#) or 656-7892.

Nov. 19, 9 a.m.
Event: "Fleming Museum Annual Holiday Store Sale," Fleming Museum. Information: [Fleming](#) or 656-0750.

Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m.
Lane Series Concert: "The Luciana Souza Duo," performing a program of Brazilian jazz accompanied by guitarist Romero Lubambo. UVM Recital Hall. Tickets: \$25.

Nov. 19, 3 p.m.
President's Distinguished Lecture: "Model-Based Inference in the Empirical Sciences," with David Anderson, professor emeritus of fishery and wildlife biology at Colorado State University. Carpenter Auditorium, Given Medical Building.

Nov. 29, 6 p.m.
Lecture: "November 2, 2004: The Most Dishonest Election," with Adam Clymer, political director, National Annenberg Election Survey.

NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

UVM HOMEPAGE

NEWS BRIEFS

Research Office Strives to Help Older Nurses Stay on the Job

Despite a national nursing shortage, a valuable resource is often left untapped — the older nurse. Nearly 80 percent of Vermont's nurses are older than 40 and nearly 20 percent are older than 55, according to a job analysis and retention survey conducted by the UVM Office of Nursing Workforce, Research, Planning and Development.

The office is working to act on its various findings in many ways, including a new mostly online program to make returning to the profession easier. The group also offers advice on ways of creating better working environments for older nurses.

"Our research shows that older nurses in Vermont experience the highest level of job satisfaction in a work environment that is respectful and supportive, and where open communication, recognition and education is plentiful," says Mary Val Palumbo, the office's director and a research associate and adjunct assistant professor of nursing. "Employers should be aware that they need to provide this type of environment to ensure their most experienced nurses will stay in their positions as the nursing shortage worsens in the coming years."

The office also studies the pool of inactive registered nurses of all ages who have left the profession. A 2003 report looked at the process of re-entry into practice in Vermont and made recommendations for making it smoother. The document found that nursing re-entry programs that require in-person attendance often present a number of challenges, including long commutes and the lack of child care.

In response to these findings, the Office of Nursing Workforce, Research, Planning and Development has worked to offer a flexible and convenient online nurse refresher course to inactive nurses in Vermont. Designed by the Connecticut League for Nursing in partnership with Charter Oak State College, the course has been approved by the Vermont Board of Nursing. It consists of two entirely online modules and a third module that includes a supervised clinical practicum within a cooperating hospital, home health or long-term care facility. The refresher course will be offered in January, March, August and November 2005. Scholarships are now available thanks to grant funding from the Vermont Department of Employment and Training.

To schedule an interview prior to registering for the course, call the Office of Nursing Workforce at UVM at 800-458-2741. For more information

October UVM In the News

From the suffering of New England spruce to UVM's role in a national trend of public honors colleges to the health risks of hormone therapy, campus experts were all over national and local media outlets in October.

Some highlights of the coverage follow:

Honors for the Honors College: UVM and first-year student Bronwyn Stippa were highlighted in an Oct. 11 Associated Press national wire story regarding honors colleges at public universities. The article ran in outlets from *USA Today*, *Washington Times*, *Florida Times-Union* and CNN.com to Vermont's daily newspapers. It featured a photo of Stippa on campus and noted that she chose UVM over private schools like New York University because UVM's Honors College offered small classes, priority scheduling and research opportunities.

Hormone Therapy Health Risks: Dr. Mary Cushman, associate professor of medicine, was lead author of a study published in the Oct. 6 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, in which she and colleagues found evidence that postmenopausal women who take the hormone therapy estrogen plus progestin have double the risk for venous thrombosis. The risk increased among women who were overweight. Cushman was featured in a number of international and national news stories.

Suffering Spruce: The "Observatory" section of the Oct. 26 *New York Times* reported on a UVM study that found that red spruce trees across New England suffered severe damage last winter. The discovery was part of the master's thesis of graduate student Brynne Lazarus, who published the findings along with her mentors at the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources. The story ran on the Associated Press national wire appearing in newspapers including the *Boston Globe* and *Newsday*.

Presidential Facts: Alfred Snider, professor of forensics, commented on the fact checking that now accompanies political campaigning, as reported by the *Pittsburgh Post Gazette* Oct. 17. "There's probably more diligent fact checking than ever, but voters need to follow up on that or it's meaningless," said Snider. "If there are misrepresented facts, or designer statistics, both sides accuse the other of that and so it's a draw."

Other October media appearances:

- Proverb expert Wolfgang Mieder, a professor of German and Russian, was

about re-entering nursing in Vermont, a brochure detailing tips for retaining the older nurse, or research reports completed by the office, visit www.choosenursingvt.org.

Dieting By Web Still A Hot Topic of Research

UVM research was highlighted at the Nov. 14-18 American Association of the Study of Obesity conference in Las Vegas, which was attended by more than 1,800 scientists and clinicians.

Jean Harvey-Berino and Beth Casey Gold presented a much-talked about study of the UVM pilot online diet program VTrim. The report found that the program helped participants lose an average of 21 pounds in six months — more than twice as much as those using the commercial weight-loss Website eDiets.com.

"I felt like it was a win-win result," says lead researcher Gold, clinical coordinator of UVM's Weight Management program. "While the VTrim program was far more successful than eDiets.com, the group on eDiets, which is a less expensive program to run, still lost an average of 9 pounds in six months. Our research clearly showed that it's possible to run a successful weight-loss program on the Internet."

Another UVM study set out to replicate a study suggesting that eating a diet high in dairy products would help people to lose weight. But the study contradicted that data, finding the high-dairy diet was no more effective than a high-quality behavioral modification program including regular exercise.

This study, lead by Harvey-Berino, professor and chair of nutrition and food sciences, also contradicts the results of a similar trial, which has been promoting dairy products based upon the positive results. "Our high-dairy group lost the same weight as the other high-dairy group," says Harvey-Berino, "but individuals in our low-dairy group did a lot better than those in the first study."

Graduate student Nicci Micco presented the dairy research. Stephen Pintauro and Paul Buzzell also contributed to the studies.

quoted in *Attache* magazine.

- A Knight Ridder News Service column published in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* Oct. 4 cited Vermont Lung Center research conducted by Dr. Benjamin Suratt, assistant professor of medicine.
- President Daniel Mark Fogel's modern poetry class, which he teaches with Professor Huck Gutman, was featured in the *Rutland Herald*.
- UVM alumni Crea and Philip Lintilhac contributed \$1 million to UVM as an incentive for donors to raise their level of giving for endowed student scholarships, as reported by the Burlington Free Press Oct. 1.
- Michael Ondaatje, author of *The English Patient*, spent a week working with students and English faculty, an Oct. 30 *Burlington Free Press* feature story reported.

theview

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[NEWS BRIEFS](#)[EVENTS](#)[NOTABLES](#)[SEARCH](#)[PRINT THIS ISSUE](#)[PRINT PAST ISSUES](#)[FEEDBACK](#)[UVM HOMEPAGE](#)

EVENTS



Singer Luciana Souza is a master of the sinuous rhythms of Brazilian jazz. (Publicity photo)

Lane Series to Present Evening of Brazilian Jazz

Brazilian jazz singer Luciana Souza and guitarist Romero Lubambo will play a UVM Lane Series concert on Nov. 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the UVM Recital Hall, Redstone Campus.

Souza is an expressive singer with a natural sense of the sinuous rhythms and intricacies of Brazilian jazz who was nominated for a Grammy Award for 2002–2003. In addition to performing, she is also a respected composer who has set the poems of both Elizabeth Bishop and Pablo Neruda to music. These song-cycles have garnered critical raves from the *New York Times*, *Downbeat* and *Billboard*.

Information: [UVM Lane Series](#)

Wildlife Ecologist to Discuss Statistical Science

David Anderson, professor emeritus of fishery

Engineers to Host Youth Outreach Events

The College of Engineering and Mathematics is sponsoring two major outreach events on Dec. 4, offering diverse opportunities for students aged 12-17 to have fun and learn more about engineering.

The first event is the all-day Scouts in Engineering Outreach Program (students need not be scouts to participate). Presentations, activities and classes will cover topics ranging from architecture to surveying; learn more about the options and register a student at www.emba.uvm.edu/scouts.

The second is the college's annual Design TASC competition, a team competition with the theme "Recycle Mania!" The event, which will draw participating teams from about 20 regional schools, will ask competitors to devise, build, and operate a recycling system that can identify assorted materials. The competition will take place around the tennis courts at Patrick Gym from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Information: 656-8748

Star Political Analyst to Discuss November Election

Adam Clymer, former Washington correspondent to the *New York Times*, will give a talk called "November 2, 2004: the Most Dishonest Election," on Nov. 29 at 6 p.m. in Memorial Lounge, Waterman.

Clymer spent 43 years in journalism before taking his current post as visiting scholar and Washington director at the Annenberg Center for Public Policy at the University of Pennsylvania. During his 26 years at the *New York Times*, he was a Congressional correspondent, national

and wildlife biology at Colorado State University, will discuss methods, models and hypotheses in empirical science in a President's Distinguished Lecture on Nov. 19 at 3 p.m. in Carpenter Auditorium, Given Medical Building. A reception will follow in the Brickyard Lounge.

Anderson is the 2004 recipient of the Wildlife Society's Aldo Leopold Memorial Award and Medal in recognition of his distinguished service to wildlife conservation and his achievements in estimating wildlife population abundance. The award is the highest honor bestowed by the Wildlife Society.

A recently retired U.S. Geological Survey senior scientist, Anderson published a book with USGS colleague Kenneth Burnham on methods for making statistical inferences from multiple models. He will explain these methods in his campus lecture titled "Model-Based Inference in the Empirical Sciences." He will illustrate his comprehensive approach by analyzing models of bill lengths in Darwin's finches and making hypotheses concerning enzyme kinetics.

Anderson has published numerous books, research monographs and peer-reviewed papers in ecology and statistical science. While employed at the USGS, he served as unit leader of cooperative fish and wildlife research units in Utah and Colorado.

For more information on Anderson's lecture, contact [Ruth Mickey](#), professor of mathematics and statistics, or [Terri Donovan](#), research assistant professor of natural resources.

policy correspondent, polling editor, political editor and weekend editor. Formerly he was the *Baltimore Sun's* bureau chief in Moscow and New Delhi, and covered both the fall of Khrushchev and the Nixon resignation.

Clymer is the author of the book, *Edward M. Kennedy: A Biography*, which has been described as an "enormously readable chronicle of one of the most fascinating, and important, politicians of our time." While at UVM, Clymer will meet with students and faculty in the political science department. His free, public lecture is sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Office.

Information: 656-3166

The Hunt for Red October

Kit Anderson, a lecturer in the environmental program, will ponder leaf-peeping in a Nov. 18 Center for Research on Vermont lecture titled "Hunt for Red October: A Cultural Geography of Foliage Season in Vermont." The presentation begins at 7:30 p.m. in Memorial Lounge.

In the description of her talk, Anderson asks, "Whoever thought up the idea of driving around in cars looking at dying leaves? Is it a modern form of an ancient ritual or just a clever marketing scheme? Why does Vermont's landscape draw so many visitors? Do real Vermonters peep?"

Anderson will discuss the natural and cultural factors that led to the beginning of foliage as a season in the mid-20th century. Changes in land use, new forests, the automobile, better marketing and shifting social attitudes toward nature are among the forces that created this new "season." Anderson's research included interviews with tourism experts, ethnographic research among leaf peepers and long-time residents of the state, attending festivals and examining online sources that provide guidance for prospective peepers.

Anderson completed her Ph.D. in cultural geography at Louisiana State University in 1997. She is the author of the book *Nature, Culture and Big Old Trees*.

[NEWS BRIEFS](#)[EVENTS](#)[NOTABLES](#)[SEARCH](#)[PRINT THIS ISSUE](#)[PRINT PAST ISSUES](#)[FEEDBACK](#)[UVM HOMEPAGE](#)

NOTABLES

November 17, 2004

Awards and Honors

Willi Coleman, vice provost for multicultural affairs, was one of 90 women chosen to attend the American Council on Education Summit for Women of Color Administrators and Faculty in Higher Education held in Providence, Rhode Island, Nov. 4-6.

Bridget Turner Kelly, assistant professor of Integrated Professional Studies, received the Peggy R. Williams Emerging Professional Award from Vermont Women in Higher Education. **Joan Smith**, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, was posthumously awarded the group's Sister Elizabeth Candon Distinguished Service Award, 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.

Richard Johnson, lecturer in the education leadership program of the College of Education and Social Services and assistant director of TRIO academic support programs, was named to the Vermont Public Television Community Council advisory group.

Publications and Presentations

A team of cardiologists presented a poster titled "Comparable Parameters of Inflammation Before and After Stenting in Patients with Different Angiographic Risk" at the Transcatheter Cardiovascular Therapeutics 2004 Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., Sept. 27 - Oct. 1. Co-authors on the poster included Dr.

Prospero Gogo, Jr., clinical instructor in medicine; Dr. **David Schneider**, associate professor of medicine; Dr. **Edward Terrien**, assistant professor of medicine; Dr. **Matthew Watkins**, professor of medicine; Dr. **Burton Sobel**, E. L. Amidon professor and chair of medicine; and Dr. **Harold Dauerman**, associate professor of medicine.

UVM, Vermont Technical College, and the Miner Research Center hosted 108 students from 14 Northeast universities at Bolton Valley Resort for the second annual Northeast Dairy Challenge Nov. 4-6. Working in five-person, mixed university teams, students assessed all aspects of three working Vermont dairy farms and presented recommendations for improvement to a panel of judges and the participating farm families. Undergraduate student participants were **Amber Blodgett**, **Jeff Chamberlin**, **Seth Chapell**, **BJ Hathaway** and **Brad Thompson**.

Associate professor of psychiatry **Alan Budney** published an article titled "Review of the validity and significance of cannabis withdrawal syndrome" in the November issue of the *American Journal of Psychiatry*. Co-authors on the report include Dr. **John Hughes**, professor of psychiatry; **Brent Moore**, post-doctoral associate in psychiatry; and **Ryan Vandrey**, predoctoral trainee in psychiatry.

Richard Jesse, associate professor of business administration, participated in a two-day workshop for the Shanghai Municipal People's Government Agriculture Commission on Nov. 8-9. The commission has plans to develop an international agricultural products trade center, and Jesse made a presentation on "Distribution Center Development: Warehouse Design" at the workshop. Also participating in the event were presenters from the World Bank, the Maryland Food Center Authority and CB Richard Ellis.

NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

UVM HOMEPAGE

President and Professor

By Kevin Foley

Article published Nov 17, 2004



Professor Huck Gutman is teaching modern poetry with President Daniel Mark Fogel this semester and enjoying the collaboration. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

Daniel Mark Fogel walks to the front of the lecture hall, pulls out his cell phone from a suit pocket and stabs it off to cement the transition from president to professor. He strolls to the center of the room, greets the class, and begins to talk Yeats.

Welcome to "The Modern Tradition in Modern Poetry," an upper-division course that Fogel is team-teaching this semester with Huck Gutman, a professor of English. While Gutman does all

the grading and advising, Fogel attends every class session while he is in town, prepares diligently for his lectures, and helped refine the syllabus.

Fogel is covering the last section of "Among School Children," the poet's soaring summation of the joys of art. "Labor is blossoming and dancing where the body is not bruised to pleasure soul.' What does that mean?" he asks the class. "The work of achieving one's aspiration and seizing one's desire just might, in some imaginary space, be easy to achieve, natural, blossoming like leaves in the trees."

The discussion widens from there, and when the poem is plumbed, Fogel sits down in the back of the hall, as Gutman leads a close reading of "September 1913." He jumps in occasionally with a quip or a bit of historical trivia about Maud Gonne, but the floor is Gutman's for the rest of the session.

Likely pair

The course is Fogel's first sustained teaching experience since 1995 — the time he discovered that leading a seminar covering heavy 19th Century diplomatic novels wasn't compatible with spending 15 hours a day as a university administrator — and it happened mostly because of Gutman's persistence in making it possible. After hearing about Fogel's interest in returning to the classroom, Gutman offered to team-teach, taking on the most time-consuming responsibilities. Fogel leapt at the opportunity.

"I'm thrilled," he says, "Huck has given me such a gift in making this possible."

For his part, Gutman is enjoying the process of collaborating and kibitzing with a colleague who has similar interests — but a contrasting intellectual approach. "We like a lot of the same poets. We share a lot of interests. We're probably the two people at the university who like Wordsworth the most," he says. "We're both close readers of poems. In this age of literary theory, that's less common than it used to be, and I have learned from him."

Of course, Gutman allows, "there are times when I realize that we have only two classes on Emily Dickinson, and I want both of them."

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[Redefining Rehab](#)

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In the classroom, Gutman is the showman, dropping to his knees, modulating his voice, cracking jokes, riffing energetically. Fogel is more the scholar, surrounding the works with layers of personal and historical context and then, when reading the poems, playing the interlocutor, peppering the students with questions about lines, images, meanings.

"My method of teaching is highly Socratic," Fogel says. "A lot of students take part, a lot of them are passionate about what they have to say."

Gutman says he's enjoyed watching that style play out over the semester. "Dan is remarkably good in a large lecture of asking questions of students but not letting matters settle into a general discussion. He keeps things focused on the poem," he says.

Literature and life

Brandi DiPasquale, a fifth-year religion student who loves poetry and took the class as a "gift" to herself, initially greeted Fogel's professorial role with some skepticism. "My generation is generally skeptical of people in positions of authority, not that I'm proud of that prejudice, but I was skeptical at first. Over time, his breadth and depth of knowledge and his love of poetry came out and won me over."

After most classes, Gutman and Fogel stay after to talk with students. DiPasquale says the chats "spill out into the hallway," and, after conversing with Fogel as if he were just another professor, she finds it hard to think of him as a president except when he drops a mention of being called away on a fundraising trip.

The course, she says, will stay with her for at least two reasons: Gutman's passionate reading of Whitman, and Fogel for unlocking Wordsworth.

"Fogel prepares more than you would think," she says. "It comes out in little tiny comments I'll catch. He'll spend hours researching a poem he has probably already read a thousand times, but he wants to be sure that he has everything right."

Though Fogel admits that he chose to teach this course, in part, because picking a poem up off his mental shelf and dusting it off is easier than doing the same thing for a heavy novel, he says he still spends hours preparing for each class, time that is sometimes difficult to spare. (He'll nonetheless teach with Gutman again next fall, albeit in a reduced role.) But in exchange, he says, he gets to spend time with students in an especially meaningful context, and he gets to "rejuvenate" his identity as an English professor and faculty member.

"When you talk about the great poems of the last two centuries, you are talking in the end about things that are much more individual works of art," Fogel explains. "You're talking about... values, love and sex and death, pain and understanding. You're sharing excitement about literature — about life."

One of the pleasures of the collaboration for Gutman is the way that it changes the pleasure he takes in all of his teaching.

"I love to talk about poems," he says. "My reward of teaching is that I get to talk about the things that I care most about other than my family. I don't talk about poems typically with my friends; I talk about them with students. The conversational community grows larger when it's not just me and the students, but it's me, the students and Dan."

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NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

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FEEDBACK

UVM HOMEPAGE

Redefining Rehab

By Jon Reidel

Article published Nov 17, 2004



Professor Bruce Beynnon has worked on two intriguing forthcoming studies on sports injuries. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

The image of three UVM hockey players wearing casts from ankle to hip remains with Bruce Beynnon. As captain of the 1978-79 men's basketball team, he remembers wondering how such strong, fit athletes could suddenly have their careers ended by a knee injury.

Now an associate professor of orthopaedics and rehabilitation, Beynnon says the anterior cruciate ligament injuries of Garry Hebert,

Chris Coutu and Serge Leblanc, as well as fellow basketball player Charlie Trapani, played a role in his early interest with knee injuries, and with his subsequent decision to pursue a career that has made him a leading researcher of ACL injuries and the surgical and rehabilitation techniques used to treat them.

"It wasn't like I saw these injuries and decided to dedicate my life to studying the ACL gods, but it really stuck in my mind," Beynnon says. "These guys were super athletes — one of them was Mr. Montreal, but an injury ended his hockey career that day. It's been interesting to see how an injury that was career-ending at any level back in the 70s is now treatable to where an athlete can return within the same year. (Back then), from the knee's perspective, the surgery was worse than the injury. The knee probably didn't know the difference between an axe attack and the surgery."

Since then, Beynnon, director of research in the Department of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation, and a team of College of Medicine researchers have built an international reputation and published extensively on sports injuries and rehabilitation. A pair of new studies — one on the effectiveness of ACL rehab programs and another study focusing on the effect of extrinsic and intrinsic risk factors on first-time inversion ankle ligament injuries in high school and college athletes — are expected to be published later this year.

The latter study evaluated ankle injuries among 901 local prep and collegiate athletes who logged a total of 50,680 "person-days" of exposure to soccer, basketball, lacrosse or field hockey over four years. Only 43 athletes had sprained ankles during the study period, even though sprains are typically considered one of the most common injuries among athletes. Beynnon's team also looked at the how injury rates are affected by factors such as gender, level of competition and sport.

What they found was that the incident rate of inversion injury is less than 1 percent per 1,000 days of exposure to sport, a value lower than previously reported. Interestingly, risk among female athletes can be linked to specific sports. The study shows that risk is highest among females playing basketball, who are at significantly greater risk than male basketball players and female lacrosse players.

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[President as Professor](#)

Daniel Fogel walks to the front of the lecture hall, pulls out his cell phone from a suit pocket and stabs it off to cement the transition from president to professor. He strolls to the center of the room, greets the class, and begins to talk Yeats.

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"Our finding of different intrinsic risk factors for ankle ligament injury between males and females indicates that intervention studies designed to reduce the incidence of ankle injuries need to develop different strategies for male and females," Beynnon wrote.

Thinking about rehab

Much of Beynnon's research has focused on clinical studies designed to evaluate different ACL surgical techniques and rehabilitation with an emphasis on the long-term stability of the knee and return to full activity; examination of how changes in the design of total joint components can influence their behavior; and the influence of abnormal joint loads on the initiation and progression of osteoarthritis.

When Beynnon first started working at UVM, the institution where he earned a B.S. in mechanical engineering in 1982, followed by an M.S. and Ph.D in biomechanical and mechanical engineering, he focused his attention on the biomechanics of the ACL with the intention of finding better ways of reconstructing it.

Beynnon and his colleagues eventually developed techniques to measure the biomechanics of the ACL. This led to the study of the strain biomechanics of ligaments in people doing all types of rehab exercises like weight lifting, biking and stair climbing.

"That served as a database for us to develop criteria by which to reconstruct and then later rehabilitate people. To make the link we were able to characterize normal strain biomechanics – we could rank order the exercises from highest strain to lowest strain. So now we can take a group of exercises that we know produces low strain (non-accelerated rehab exercises) and another group that produces high strain, and develop programs that would compare the two and their effect (on ACL rehab)."

This research is the basis for a paper that will appear in the *American Journal of Sports Medicine* in December authored by Beynnon, Dr. Robert Johnson, Bjarne Brattbakk, Dr. Joseph Abate, Braden Fleming and Dr. Claude Nichols, all colleagues in Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation except for Fleming who has left the department. Despite the findings not being exactly what he expected, Beynnon says the results are significant in that they go against some commonly held beliefs about aggressive rehab versus non-aggressive.

"What we found is that there was no difference between the programs, which is quite interesting because we thought there would be," Beynnon says. "There's no difference from a clinical outcome, from the patients' perspective, from a functional perspective, or from a strength perspective."

With this study complete, Beynnon and his colleagues have already begun to advance their research by conducting laboratory studies on synovial fluids drawn from the knees of subjects, which will provide information about protein biomarkers that may be responsible for cartilage breakdown.

"This is very interesting because we're looking at arthritis before it even happens," Beynnon says. "If we can understand what's going on before, maybe we can intervene before it starts. We can target certain things earlier. Do we need to block the degradation process that's cleaving the cartilage, and if so how do we do that? What we've identified is that cartilage breaking itself down much, much faster than it should be, so we're starting to look at ways to bring that back into balance."

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NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

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FEEDBACK

UVM HOMEPAGE

Trustees Approve Construction Planning, Debt Rules

By University Communications

Article published Nov 16, 2004

Emphasizing that his "vision" for the University of Vermont — of larger enrollment, better facilities, increased diversity and more academic excellence — has increasingly become a new reality, President Daniel Mark Fogel ticked off markers of progress as the Board of Trustees considered the next steps of the plan.

The markers include a "high-water mark" of \$125 million in research awards; an all-time record level of diversity among students, faculty and staff; nearly \$175 million raised through the comprehensive campaign; new construction; approval of the student center; and a long-term A+ bond rating from Standard & Poor's.

"We are keeping our eyes on the prize, the building of academic quality inside and outside the classroom for our students, increased recognition and visibility for our robust and distinguished research enterprise, a deeper and ever-more effective commitment to our indispensable role as a driver of the intellectual, cultural, social, and economic well-being of Vermont," Fogel said during the Nov. 10-13 trustees meetings.

During the sessions, trustees gave approval and allocated funds for planning a proposed new plant sciences building that would replace Hills Building. They also authorized planning for a renovation of the Wing-Davis-Wilks residence halls. The group also approved seeking a five percent increase in the university's state appropriation for the next fiscal year.

The board unanimously approved an important set of resolutions authorizing the use of commercial paper as a mechanism to improve board-approved capital projects. This allows the university to take advantage of good short-term interest rates and take on debt as funds are needed, rather than all at once.

The possible new plant sciences building, which the university will spend up to about \$3.91 million from a previous state appropriation to plan for, will offer new facilities for plant and soil science and botany and agricultural biochemistry.

The Wing-Davis-Wilks renovation plan, which the board approved spending up to \$2 million to develop, will go up for board approval early next year. The renovation is part of a 10-year, \$169 million effort to completely renovate campus residence halls.

If granted, the university's requested increase in its state appropriation would begin a multi-year process of moving the university's ranking from 47th to 40th nationwide for state support (as measured by relating funding to per-capita income) among public institutions. The request was prompted in part by two recently released studies, one by the Vermont Business Roundtable and another by the Windham Foundation, which showed UVM as a key player in state economic development. These reports echo similar findings by Vermont's Commission on Higher Education Funding.

The board will meet again from Feb. 5-7, 2005.

Board of Trustees Committee Reports

Finance and Budget: Michael Gower, vice president for finance and

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[President as Professor](#)

Daniel Fogel walks to the front of the lecture hall, pulls out his cell phone from a suit pocket and stabs it off to cement the transition from president to professor. He strolls to the center of the room, greets the class, and begins to talk Yeats.

[Redefining Rehab](#)

The image of three UVM hockey players wearing casts from ankle to hip remains with Bruce Beynnon. As captain of the 1978-79 men's basketball team, he remembers wondering how such strong, fit athletes could suddenly have their careers ended by one knee injury.

administration, outlined details of the commercial paper program as a means to allow short-term financing options for the approximately \$184 million of projects that have already been approved.

Gower offered five reasons for establishing the program:

- Avoid requirement to borrow necessary funding for approved projects immediately
- Provide ongoing access to funding for capital projects on a taxable and tax-exempt basis, similar to a bank line of credit
- Maintain flexibility during construction
- Permit greater flexibility in the management of the debt portfolio including the ability to convert commercial paper to permanent bond financing
- Consider additional cash optimization strategies in the future

The committee and full board approved the plan. The votes came shortly after news of an A+ bond rating for the university from Standard & Poor's. The rating company said it had never seen a plan as "detailed and as carefully articulated" as the university's 10-year vision.

In other business, the group approved raising summer tuition rates to bring them into line with those of the regular academic year as part of a multi-year plan to equalize tuition throughout the year.

Facilities and Technologies: Salvatore Chiarelli, director of physical plant, gave the committee a progress report on utilities master planning at the university with a particular focus on the potential of a tri-generation system for heating, cooling, and providing electricity. Chiarelli noted a number of advantages of such a system, including improving environmental impact, economic efficiency and aesthetics. Michael Gower said that tri-generation is a promising alternative, with project costs (estimated at \$11.5 million) likely recouped by utility savings within nine years. "Now we need to dig deeper into the analysis to build this into specifics," Gower said. The board will likely consider approval of the tri-generation project, which would provide utilities to the University Commons, at the February meetings.

In action related to the proposed Plant Sciences Building, the committee authorized a nearly \$4.1 million state capital appropriation request for fiscal year 2006 that would be earmarked for the project. Trustees also voted to move ahead with planning on the plant sciences building, work that will be funded by a previous state capital appropriation of \$3.91 million.

The group also discussed questions recently raised by the Vermont Building and Trades Council, which has asked the university to re-examine its procurement practices in hiring construction contractors. Vice President Michael Gower said that the administration has complied fully with university policy on selecting contractors. Broadening that policy to include considerations such as the wages and benefits contractors provide sub-contractors is a matter for the board to decide, Gower said.

Academic and Student Programs: Lauck Parke, vice president for undergraduate education, reported that the 8,143 students who began classes this semester represent the third-highest undergraduate enrollment in university history. Retention rates have significantly improved, he said, and this fall marked an all-time high of 150 for first-year ALANA enrollments.

Parke presented highlights of a report on an admissions strategic plan developed for UVM by consultant Jim Black, associate provost for enrollment services at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro. The plan identifies nine strategies for enrollment, some of which have already been adopted. They include using an integrated enrollment management approach, expanding student recruitment to the national market and working to make UVM the institution of first choice for high quality students.

In other business:

- Don DeHayes, dean of the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, discussed how the school has changed undergraduate advising since the 1990s. Improvements include

creating an advising handbook, adding service-learning opportunities and hiring an intern/career coordinator.

- Frances Carr, vice president for research and dean of graduate studies, provided an overview of the Vermont Advanced Computing Center at UVM, a NASA-funded program that supports computing-related research, education, technology transfer and research collaboration.

Diversity: The group presented a draft document, "Why Diversity is an Academic and Institutional Strategic Priority for the University of Vermont," for discussion in front of a standing-room-only audience. The resolution, which was subsequently approved in full by the whole board, would amend the charge of the committee and restate the trustees' commitment to diversity. The text begins with a clear and strong statement, "The University of Vermont holds that diversity and academic excellence are inseparable."

In other business, the committee heard presentations by Annie Stevens, assistant vice president of student and campus life, on creating a diverse community and McNair Scholar Evan Litwin on Chittenden County's changing racial and class demographics.

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