

NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

SUBSCRIBE
(ENTER E-MAIL)

UVM HOMEPAGE

[Vega in Vermont](#)



Renowned jazz and Latin jazz trumpeter Ray Vega rehearses the UVM Post Bop Ensemble. See Vega — the newest faculty member of Jazz Studies — perform with the UVM Jazz Ensemble, Thursday, Nov. 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Building Recital Hall. (Photo: Sally McCay)

It seems somehow unlikely that trumpet virtuoso and lifelong New Yorker Ray Vega, one of world's great jazz and Latin jazz artists, would trade 47 years at the center of the jazz universe for a new start in the slightly smaller world of Burlington, Vt. But the newest member of UVM's Jazz Studies Program, who began teaching at the university in September, has his reasons.

[FULL STORY](#) ▶

CURRENT NEWS BRIEFS AND EVENTS

[Dean Grasso Featured in EPA Report of Science Advisory Committee Accomplishments](#)

[Kaza Welcomed as Director of Environmental Program](#)

[Somali Bantu Music in Vermont](#)

[See Toys, Give Toys](#)

[The Stories that](#)

[Stay](#) When refugees arrive on American soil, resettlement efforts are centered on basic necessities. Talk to them and they tell you they are grateful. They know that they are the lucky ones. And yet. A fresh start and a welcoming community cannot shut off an inner slideshow of suffering, violence, loss, and fear. Karen Fondacaro and a team of passionate graduate students stepped into the void, launching Connecting Cultures, a groundbreaking clinical science program to serve their mental health needs.

[Everyday Life in](#)

["New France"](#) The week before Thanksgiving Joseph-André Senécal will pack up his belongings accumulated over a 30-year career as a professor of Romance languages and move to Idaho. Making the trip west will be three steel filing cabinets filled with information he compiled on the lives of French colonists and soldiers who manned a fort and developed a settlement in Addison, Vt. in the 1730s on the shores of Lake Champlain known as Pointe-à-la-Chevelure.

THE WEEK IN VIEW

Nov. 22. 7:30 p.m. Lane Series Concert: Burlington Chamber Orchestra with Sergey Antonov, cello. \$25 adult, \$8 student. Music Building Recital Hall. [Information](#), [tickets](#).

Dec. 2. 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Staff Council Meeting. Livak Ballroom, Davis Center.

Dec. 3. Noon, 7:30 p.m. Social Justice Film Series: *Laid to Waste: A Chester Neighborhood Fights for its Future*. 104 Allen House. Noon. Film will also be screened at 7:30 p.m. in 216 Living/Learning Commons. Information: wrodrigu@uvm.edu.

NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

SUBSCRIBE
(ENTER E-MAIL)

UVM HOMEPAGE

Vega in Vermont

By Jeffrey Wakefield

Article published November 19, 2008



Renowned jazz and Latin jazz trumpeter Ray Vega rehearses the UVM Post Bop Ensemble. See Vega — the newest faculty member of Jazz Studies — perform with the UVM Jazz Ensemble, Thursday, Nov. 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Building Recital Hall. (Photo: Sally McCay)

But the newest member of UVM's Jazz Studies Program, who began teaching at the university in September, has his reasons.

There's Vega's appraisal of his musical colleagues in the department, whom he calls "world class." There's the Burlington arts scene, which he describes as "thriving." And then there's the wall-to-wall window in his new office in the Music Building, which filled the room with a view of the flaming Green Mountains one afternoon in late fall.

"I love Vermont," he says. "It's been the most spectacular autumn I've ever experienced in my life, and I've seen a lot of autumns."

Vega has been an admirer of the state and city since 2002, when he began serving as guest artist for the Flynn Theater's annual Latin Jazz camp, which brought him to Burlington from his home in the South Bronx for several weeks each summer. When a position opened in the Jazz Studies department last year, Vega jumped at the chance to move his young family to the area, to join an up-and-coming jazz program, and to immerse himself in a small but dynamic music scene.

Playing backup

With a reputation as a first-class jazz educator — Vega taught at

It seems somehow unlikely that trumpet virtuoso and lifelong New Yorker Ray Vega, one of world's great jazz and Latin jazz artists, would trade 47 years at the center of the jazz universe for a new start in the slightly smaller world of Burlington, Vt.

PRINT | EMAIL THIS PAGE
Text Size: [Sm](#) | [Md](#) | [Lg](#)

CURRENT FEATURES

[The Stories that Stay](#)

When refugees arrive on American soil, resettlement efforts are centered on basic necessities. Talk to them and they tell you they are grateful. They know that they are the lucky ones. And yet. A fresh start and a welcoming community cannot shut off an inner slideshow of suffering, violence, loss, and fear. Karen Fondacaro and a team of passionate graduate students stepped into the void, launching Connecting Cultures, a groundbreaking clinical science program to serve their mental health needs.

[Everyday Life in "New France"](#)

The week before Thanksgiving Joseph-André Senécal will pack up his belongings accumulated over a 30-year career as a professor of Romance languages and move to Idaho. Making the trip west will be three steel filing cabinets filled with information he compiled on the lives of French colonists and soldiers who manned a fort and developed a settlement in Addison, Vt. in the 1730s on the shores of Lake Champlain known as Pointe-à-la-Chevelure.

SUNY Purchase before coming to UVM — and recording credits on over 100 CDs both with his own bands and as a featured sideman with such Latin jazz and jazz greats as Tito Puente and Joe Henderson, it's hard to overstate Vega's stature in the jazz world.

But you'd never know it from his ruffled style, warmth, and utter lack of pretension.

Take his approach to one of the three student groups he conducts, the Post-Bop Ensemble. At a recent rehearsal, Vega sat inconspicuously in a clump of six student musicians, clapped loudly to spur the music on, and often stopped the group to make adjustments. He occasionally stepped forward to solo with a cascade of masterful notes, but mostly played backup, while the other students took their turn in the limelight.

Teaching by doing is central to his approach.

"I basically run that ensemble as if it's my working band," he says. "I want them to learn how to cut to the chase faster and get the music together. A lot of times, they may not know how to raise the bar. I'm just trying to shed a little light on that."

Fuzzy

If the student musicians in the Post-Bop Ensemble are well aware of who Vega is and how lucky they are to be working with him — "It's been the one of the most productive experiences I've had," says junior bassist and music major Ian Kovac — many of the 60-plus students in the Jazz History class he teaches are fuzzier.

During one class, a 75-minute spin through a topic Vega knows as well as anyone on the planet, Latin jazz, students were treated to an organized presentation of the facts embroidered with frequent personal anecdotes.

Kacia Yazbak, a pre-med junior who sat attentively in the front row and "loves" the class, said she didn't have a clue who Vega was but is "beginning to figure it out." One hint: the Smithsonian-produced documentary Vega showed during a portion of class featured several interviews with the trumpeter.

Vega's new home hasn't exactly caused him to retire from the world stage. Several weeks before the fall semester's end, he'd already performed in Adelaide, Australia, Detroit, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, and Los Angeles, with dates in New York and Pittsburgh to come.

Mixing a hectic performance schedule with his teaching doesn't faze Vega — who's also putting together a quartet with his Jazz Studies colleagues he hopes will gig regularly in Burlington — or distract

him from his goal of further raising the profile of UVM's ascendant jazz program.

The word is already out. Just weeks after Vega started, high school musicians with new interest in UVM began "showing up on our doorstep," says an elated Alex Stewart, director of the Jazz Studies department, which a famed jazz artist now calls home.

Vega will perform one of the seminal works of Latin jazz, the Manteca Suite, with the UVM Jazz Ensemble, Thursday, Nov. 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Building Recital Hall.

The Manteca Suite is based on a composition written by jazz trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie and Latin percussionist Chano Pozo in the late 1940s, one of first works that fused jazz and Latin styles and popularized the new form. The composition was expanded into a four-part suite by the great Latin jazz arranger, Chico O'Farrell, for Gillespie's big band.

The concert will also feature a contemporary piece by one of the leading jazz composers active today, Jim McNeely, called the Swedish Thing, that will also feature Vega.

The Jazz Ensemble will perform a variety of shorter pieces from the jazz and Latin jazz canon featuring student soloists, including works by the Count Basie, Buddy Rich, and Paquito D'Rivera orchestras.

Information: 656-3040.

theview

University Communications
86 South Williams Street
Burlington, Vermont
05401-3404

pho 802.656.2005
fax 802.656.3203

theview@uvm.edu

[The View Homepage](#) | [UVM Homepage](#)
[News Briefs](#) | [Events](#) | [Notables](#) | [About Us](#) | [RSS](#) | [Feedback](#)

NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

SUBSCRIBE
(ENTER E-MAIL)

UVM HOMEPAGE

The Stories that Stay

Clinical psychology program reaches out to troubled refugees

By Lee Ann Cox

Article published November 19, 2008



"Separated from his sister in 1990," by photographer Ned Castle. His images of Vermont refugees will be on display at the Connecting Cultures program open house/fundraiser on November 21 (details below).

"We heard people start to shoot — BANG! BANG! BANG! — around us they were shooting," a Rwandan refugee told Ned Castle for *In Their Own Words*, his collection of images and personal histories of Vermont refugees. "So we started to run... At that time when you heard people

shooting, the best thing was to run, and think about stuff later... I saw a guy I knew. I asked him, "Did you see my mom." He said, '... I think your mom is dead.'

"...we started to cry — (my brother) and me. We cried — ran and cried. We spent three days walking... walked like 100 miles... We needed to stop to sleep — we hadn't slept those three days. When we got there — the day after — Mom came with our sister and the baby. They said they reached the bridge when the shooting started. My mom held my sister and they jumped in the river."

When refugees arrive on American soil — in steadily increasing numbers, now nearly 5,000 in Vermont — resettlement efforts are centered on basic necessities, finding a home and hopefully a job, functioning in an utterly foreign culture. Talk to them and they tell you they are grateful. They know that they are the lucky ones. And yet. A fresh start and a welcoming community cannot shut off an inner slideshow of suffering, violence, loss and fear. The young man's story above is both singular and part of the commonality among refugees. They all fled from something.

According to Karen Fondacaro, director of UVM's Behavior Therapy and Psychotherapy Center, 50 to 80 percent of refugees are

PRINT | EMAIL THIS PAGE
Text Size: [Sm](#) | [Md](#) | [Lg](#)

CURRENT FEATURES

[Vega in Vermont](#)

It seems somehow unlikely that trumpet virtuoso and lifelong New Yorker Ray Vega, one of world's great jazz and Latin jazz artists, would trade 47 years at the center of the jazz universe for a new start in the slightly smaller world of Burlington, Vt. But the newest member of UVM's Jazz Studies Program, who began teaching at the university in September, has his reasons.

[Everyday Life in "New France"](#)

The week before Thanksgiving Joseph-André Senécal will pack up his belongings accumulated over a 30-year career as a professor of Romance languages and move to Idaho. Making the trip west will be three steel filing cabinets filled with information he compiled on the lives of French colonists and soldiers who manned a fort and developed a settlement in Addison, Vt. in the 1730s on the shores of Lake Champlain known as Pointe-à-la-Chevelure.

estimated to have significant mental health issues, primarily post-traumatic stress disorder, and symptoms related to anxiety and depression. So in July 2007 she stepped into the void, with a team of passionate graduate students, launching Connecting Cultures, a groundbreaking clinical science program with three components: community outreach, direct mental health services, and research that will allow them to formally assess their approach and offer a map for other refugee resettlement communities. To Fondacaro, the psychological and physical, spiritual and cultural are inseparable, fundamental aspects of survival.

"When you look at the poverty and hunger refugees are facing, if someone is also in the midst of full-blown PTSD," she says, "it's a big issue. I've treated trauma for over 20 years now but some of the stories we're hearing now are so horrific it's taught us more about how you treat this problem."

Flipping the script

Connecting Cultures, at its heart, is based on sensitivity — to the different cultures and beliefs among clients, to their perceptions of power, to their emotional and physical comfort. Fondacaro and her students began outreach efforts by merely hanging out for a couple of hours at a time at the Association of Africans Living in Vermont, becoming friendly, safe, familiar faces. Then they held two community breakfasts, one for men and one for women, with talks on parenting skills that were translated into three languages. The format works, and they plan to repeat it focusing on other issues such as alcohol and substance abuse.

In the clinic (which has recently been remodeled for the program courtesy of the local junior league), the team provides one-on-one counseling with the use of an interpreter. They've also been trained to conduct the psychological evaluations that are critical for asylum seekers, who lack the security of refugee status.

Central to the therapeutic techniques used, Fondacaro explains, is giving the person control over their story, letting them decide how and when to talk about the pieces. "They say," for instance, "'Well, I can talk about when I was being hung by my hands, but I can't talk about seeing my parent get killed just yet.'" So they get to pick which pieces they want to talk about first. They are already having nightmares about it, they are already inundated, but they get some control."

Patrick Giantonio, executive director of Vermont Refugee Assistance, calls Connecting Cultures an extraordinary resource, particularly for those applying for asylum. "You can't evade those worst moments of torture; as you go deeper and deeper into the darkest moments of someone's life," he says, "oftentimes they come apart. But this is the moment when they most need to keep it

together. It's incredibly useful to have them receiving treatment while having to recount these difficult times."

Giantonio, who speaks three languages common to African refugees, has often served as an interpreter in the private therapy sessions, a process he says has been profound for him to witness. "It's tough. It is so courageous for them to enter the process of healing," he says. "And it's courageous for the (graduate) students also because hearing the stories is not easy. This is an incredible group of people."

All of the work is done through a mishmash of funding — small grants, donations, fees from clients receiving other services at the Center, though they pride themselves on serving the underserved, so there's no self-sustaining revenue stream. Much of Fondacaro's work, then, is inevitably seeking financial support. "It's a constant struggle," she says, especially as their work becomes more known.

But it's a calling for Fondacaro, as well as her students who make the program succeed in part, she says, because they devote far more hours than required. "I just fell passionately in love with it," says Fondacaro. "Who wouldn't want to do this work? I'm so lucky."

Their mission, they know, is not to erase the stories. For someone who has endured severe trauma, the goal can only be to turn the story around. "Hopefully," Fondacaro says, "they can create a different meaning from it and who they are now. You incorporate it into your life, know that you've existed with it, but not live it every day."

-How to help

Connecting Cultures is holding an open house and fundraiser on Friday, Nov. 21, 5 to 8 p.m. at the Behavior Therapy and Psychotherapy Center, located on the ground level of Dewey Hall, 2 Colchester Ave. Guest speakers include President Daniel Fogel and Congolese refugee Kyendamina Mukeba.

If you are unable to attend but wish to help support the program, checks can be made payable and mailed to Behavior Therapy and Psychotherapy Center, Department of Psychology, University of Vermont, 2 Colchester Ave., Burlington, VT 05401.

Special thanks to Ned Castle and the Vermont Folklife Center, where [In Their Own Words](#) can be viewed.

NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

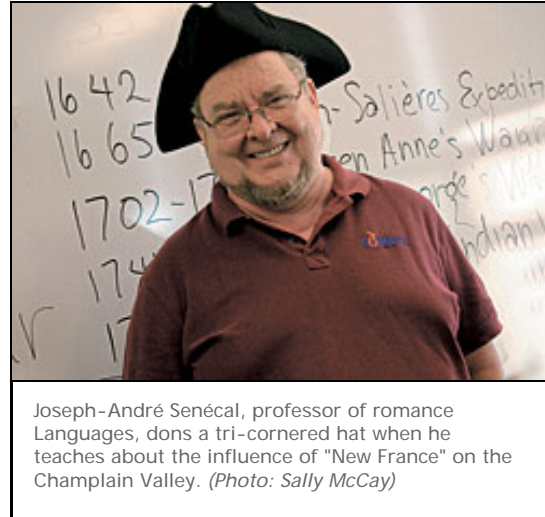
SUBSCRIBE
(ENTER E-MAIL)

UVM HOMEPAGE

Everyday Life in "New France"

By Jon Reidel

Article published November 19, 2008



Joseph-André Senécal, professor of romance Languages, dons a tri-cornered hat when he teaches about the influence of "New France" on the Champlain Valley. (Photo: Sally McCay)

compiled on the lives of French colonists and soldiers who manned a fort and developed a settlement in Addison, Vt. in the 1730s on the shores of Lake Champlain known as Pointe-à-la-Chevelure.

The content of the cabinets represents the definitive and sole collection of history on this important, yet often ignored settlement located across the lake from Crown Point, NY. Senécal, who teaches Quebec culture and literature and served as director of UVM's Canadian Studies Program from 1998-2006, plans to spend the first two years of a phased-retirement condensing the information in the cabinets into a book titled "Everyday Life at Point-à-la-Chevelure in New France."

Senécal spoke about the settlement — the first European community in the southern Champlain Valley — at a Research-in-Progress Seminar on Nov. 12 titled "The Presence of New France in the Champlain Valley: 1609-1759." He's also working on another book about Samuel de Champlain to coincide with the 400th anniversary of Champlain coming to the region. Senécal's research, including copies of documents he retrieved from France, will be available to historians and other interested parties at the Crown Point State Historical Site.

Senécal's impossibly detailed information about the inhabitants of the settlement, which contained the fort that preceded Fort Ticonderoga, sheds light on life during the early 1700s. His

The week before Thanksgiving, Joseph-André Senécal will pack up his belongings accumulated over a 30-year career as a professor of Romance languages and move to Idaho. Making the trip west will be three steel filing cabinets filled with information he

PRINT | EMAIL THIS PAGE
Text Size: [Sm](#) | [Md](#) | [Lg](#)

CURRENT FEATURES

[Vega in Vermont](#)

It seems somehow unlikely that trumpet virtuoso and lifelong New Yorker Ray Vega, one of world's great jazz and Latin jazz artists, would trade 47 years at the center of the jazz universe for a new start in the slightly smaller world of Burlington, Vt. But the newest member of UVM's Jazz Studies Program, who began teaching at the university in September, has his reasons.

[The Stories that Stay](#)

When refugees arrive on American soil, resettlement efforts are centered on basic necessities. Talk to them and they tell you they are grateful. They know that they are the lucky ones. And yet. A fresh start and a welcoming community cannot shut off an inner slideshow of suffering, violence, loss, and fear. Karen Fondacaro and a team of passionate graduate students stepped into the void, launching Connecting Cultures, a groundbreaking clinical science program to serve their mental health needs.

research also shows the key role Pointe-à-la-Chevelure played in laying the foundation for the conquering of New France leading to the The Seven Years' War, which ended France's position as a major colonial power in the Americas. The events of that war also attracted some important historical figures to the area, including Ethan Allen.

"It's an important piece of history that doesn't receive a lot of attention," says Senécal, who grew up in Quebec City. "I've been able to reconstruct the lives of each settler and after 20 years of research have gotten to know them pretty well. You start to get a real sense for who they are and the stories eventually become personal."

Seeking answers in Versailles

In 1730, the French erected a small wooden fort at Point a la Chevelure on the Vermont side of the lake, effectively taking control of territory claimed by Great Britain. Another fort (Fort St. Frédéric) was eventually constructed on the western shore and garrisoned by about one hundred officers and men. Consisting of about 90 lots (30-35 on the Vermont side) with settlers from Montreal of Quebec, the settlement served as an outpost of French culture in the Champlain Valley and helped increase the population as part of settlement drive by Versailles and Quebec based on the early expedition of Champlain in 1609.

Senécal is often asked why it took more than 120 years following Champlain's arrival for a settlement to be established. Despite a "precocious claim" to the watershed of Lake Champlain, France and the colonial government at Quebec were slow to take possession of southern lands mapped by Champlain because of the "lasting menace of the Mohawks and other Iroquois, and the failure of New France to attract a larger flow of new immigrants from the mother country," writes Senécal in the first chapter of his book.

The fear of attack and other daily trials were documented by the military and settlers, and some of their experiences are preserved at The Louvre. Senécal, who has made multiple trips to Paris to study the archives, can easily translate the writings from his native French into English. Senécal seems to know more about settlers than most people do about their own neighbors. He knows their ages; when they were baptized; when they received their first communion; and when they died. One woman was married four times (unheard for that time period) while another endured six still births. Senécal recalls feeling like he lost a family member after discovering that dozens of the settlers later died on a makeshift boat that sunk in the lake.

Keeping "New France" alive

Senécal's research was conducted as a separate passion from his main teachings as a professor of Romance language, which he

admits wasn't his first choice. "I wanted to teach history, but it was the 60s and the competition for tenure tract positions was fierce, so I entered a less competitive field, which I have enjoyed."

The fort and its surrounding settlements were forced to evacuate in 1759 by an advancing British army. Fort Ticonderoga was constructed 15 miles to the south a few years later. "Their engineer was totally inept," says Senécal in reference to the original fort. "The French made a serious blunder by building it where they did. It was poorly located and poorly constructed." Today, much of the settlement lies beneath the Crown Point Bridge and doesn't appear to be high on the excavation list of the State of Vermont unless construction warrants the need for archaeological preservation.

Senécal's goal has been to keep the lives and stories of the small settlement alive through his research and writing. Fittingly, they will be on display at Crown Point not far from the original settlement. "It became my passion. You get to know who lives next to whom. All of these human stories connected with the site became very poignant ones. I think people will get a real sense of what it was like to live at that time and place."

theview

University Communications
86 South Williams Street
Burlington, Vermont
05401-3404

pho 802.656.2005
fax 802.656.3203

theview@uvm.edu

[The View Homepage](#) | [UVM Homepage](#)
[News Briefs](#) | [Events](#) | [Notables](#) | [About Us](#) | [RSS](#) | [Feedback](#)

NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

SUBSCRIBE
(ENTER E-MAIL)

UVM HOMEPAGE

Dean Grasso Featured in EPA Report of Science Advisory Committee Accomplishments

By Dawn Densmore

Article published November 19, 2008

A soon-to-be published report from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), "Science Advice for EPA — Current and Future Challenges," recognizes the service and accomplishments of EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) members, including former SAB chair and dean of the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences, Domenico Grasso.

Grasso, an environmental engineer, served as vice chair of the EPA Science Advisory Board and chair of the EPA Science Advisory Board Committee on Valuing the Protection of Ecological Systems and Services from 1998 through 2007. He is also chair emeritus of the SAB Committee on Environmental Engineering. Grasso is featured in the report along with EPA Science Advisory Board colleagues from Harvard, Carnegie-Mellon, Stanford, Georgia Tech, and the World Bank.

EPA's strategy to reorient the agency's ecological research program around the concept of ecosystem services was evaluated by Dr. Grasso's committee featured in the report.

"Strengthening EPA's ability to assess the value of ecological protection is a priority for the agency because life depends on ecosystems and the services they provide" says Grasso. The committee's goal was to help EPA improve its ability to identify, quantify, and assess the value of the ecological effects of its activities, thereby helping decision-makers to make more informed choices among environmental policy options. This novel and important approach has "the potential to be transformative for environmental decision making as well as ecological science," according to the report.

"I considered my EPA advisory role a unique chance to serve and strengthen our nation's scientific abilities and decision-making around environmental and economic issues," said Grasso, "It was an honor to work with so many distinguished colleagues from across the U.S. and hope our efforts continue to inform and advance the nation's 21st century environmental policies."

 [PRINT](#) | [EMAIL THIS PAGE](#)
Text Size: [Sm](#) | [Md](#) | [Lg](#)

CURRENT FEATURES

[Vega in Vermont](#)

It seems somehow unlikely that trumpet virtuoso and lifelong New Yorker Ray Vega, one of world's great jazz and Latin jazz artists, would trade 47 years at the center of the jazz universe for a new start in the slightly smaller world of Burlington, Vt. But the newest member of UVM's Jazz Studies Program, who began teaching at the university in September, has his reasons.

[The Stories that Stay](#)

When refugees arrive on American soil, resettlement efforts are centered on basic necessities. Talk to them and they tell you they are grateful. They know that they are the lucky ones. And yet. A fresh start and a welcoming community cannot shut off an inner slideshow of suffering, violence, loss, and fear. Karen Fondacaro and a team of passionate graduate students stepped into the void, launching Connecting Cultures, a groundbreaking clinical science program to serve their mental health needs.

[Everyday Life in "New France"](#)

The week before Thanksgiving Joseph-André Senécal will pack up his belongings accumulated over a 30-year career as a professor of Romance languages and move to Idaho. Making the trip west will be three steel filing cabinets filled with information he compiled on the lives of French colonists and soldiers who manned a fort and developed a settlement in Addison, Vt. in the 1730s on the shores of

[Read the report on EPA's website.](#)

Lake Champlain known as
Pointe-à-la-Chevelure.



theview

University Communications
86 South Williams Street
Burlington, Vermont
05401-3404

pho 802.656.2005
fax 802.656.3203

theview@uvm.edu

[The View Homepage](#) | [UVM Homepage](#)
[News Briefs](#) | [Events](#) | [Notables](#) | [About Us](#) | [RSS](#) | [Feedback](#)

NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

SUBSCRIBE
(ENTER E-MAIL)

UVM HOMEPAGE

Kaza Welcomed as Director of Environmental Program

By Joshua Brown

Article published November 19, 2008

"Barack Obama: he's on our side," said Stephanie Kaza, as she was formally welcomed as the new director of UVM's Environmental Program in a reception at the Fleming Museum on Tuesday evening.

A nationally noted scholar of Buddhism and ecology, Kaza has been a professor in UVM's environmental program since 1991, bringing a richly diverse education — including a doctorate in biology and master's degrees in both education and divinity — to her teaching and research.

Kaza is the third director of UVM's Environmental Program, following Carl Reidel, who founded the program in 1972, and Ian Worley, who led the program for the last 13 years.

To her new leadership post, Kaza brings a willingness to speak directly about the lines of connection she sees between environmental problem-solving and many other realms, including economics, the ecological sciences, and electoral politics.

"We've not had teammates at the federal level for quite a while; it's held all of us back. It's been really difficult," she said, speaking to more than 40 gathered colleagues and students. "But now we actually are part of a much bigger team. Environmental studies is part of the green jobs movement; it's part of bringing a new generation on board to be the team that follows Obama."

Many UVM students in that next generation paint a portrait of Kaza as a gifted teacher.

"She's a professor who cares so wholeheartedly," said Kerry Canton '09, who has taken several of Kaza's courses including Religion and Ecology and now is one of her teaching assistants. "Studying the environment can be stressful, but Stephanie always remains positive and looks for solutions."

"Comprehensive" and "deeply understanding" are the words that came to senior Madison Monty's mind in describing Kaza. "She understands a lot of different students' perspectives," Monty said.

 [PRINT](#) | [EMAIL THIS PAGE](#)
Text Size: [Sm](#) | [Md](#) | [Lg](#)

CURRENT FEATURES

[Vega in Vermont](#)

It seems somehow unlikely that trumpet virtuoso and lifelong New Yorker Ray Vega, one of world's great jazz and Latin jazz artists, would trade 47 years at the center of the jazz universe for a new start in the slightly smaller world of Burlington, Vt. But the newest member of UVM's Jazz Studies Program, who began teaching at the university in September, has his reasons.

[The Stories that Stay](#)

When refugees arrive on American soil, resettlement efforts are centered on basic necessities. Talk to them and they tell you they are grateful. They know that they are the lucky ones. And yet. A fresh start and a welcoming community cannot shut off an inner slideshow of suffering, violence, loss, and fear. Karen Fondacaro and a team of passionate graduate students stepped into the void, launching Connecting Cultures, a groundbreaking clinical science program to serve their mental health needs.

[Everyday Life in "New France"](#)

The week before Thanksgiving Joseph-André Senécal will pack up his belongings accumulated over a 30-year career as a professor of Romance languages and move to Idaho. Making the trip west will be three steel filing cabinets filled with information he compiled on the lives of French colonists and soldiers who manned a fort and developed a settlement in Addison, Vt. in the 1730s on the shores of

"She really wants people to understand what she is studying. She makes sure you get it," said Claire Johnson '09, who noted that Kaza strongly supported student participation in the Powershift climate change demonstrations in Washington, D.C. last November.

The author of five books, including the newly published *Mindfully Green*, Kaza also co-chaired UVM's Environmental Council for several years and was a key supporter of President Fogel's recent decision to create a university-level Office of Sustainability.

"She believes we can fix our problems and wants us to get involved," Canton said, "she sees strength in youth."

This praise is echoed by faculty members, including UVM anthropologist Luis Vivanco. He called Kaza a visionary who, through her books and lectures, speaks beyond the academy to "lots of people in their everyday lives."

In his remarks at the reception, Vivanco called for close connections between the Environmental Program and the newly launched Global and Regional Studies Program he directs, noting that education for sustainability is central to both programs.

Vivanco sees Kaza's new leadership post as "an opportunity to open the doors of the [environmental] program to faculty in other colleges, like Arts and Sciences." Kaza affirmed this open-door approach in her remarks, noting that environmental studies is intrinsically multi-disciplinary and needs people from all backgrounds.

Which explains colleague Tom Hudspeth's story about Kaza. He was attending a regional meeting of environmental studies programs when a professor from another university approached him.

This professor used to be scared to "come out of the closet" to say, "I'm a humanities person," Hudspeth recalled, because, "the people at my college are all ecologists and environmental policy people." But Kaza made a spirited defense of the role of the humanities in environmental studies and the young professor concluded, "I'm going to stand tall because of my conversation with Stephanie Kaza."

theview

University Communications
86 South Williams Street
Burlington, Vermont
05401-3404

pho 802.656.2005
fax 802.656.3203

theview@uvm.edu

[The View Homepage](#) | [UVM Homepage](#)
[News Briefs](#) | [Events](#) | [Notables](#) | [About Us](#) | [RSS](#) | [Feedback](#)

NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

SUBSCRIBE
(ENTER E-MAIL)

UVM HOMEPAGE

Somali Bantu Music in Vermont

By The View Staff

Article published November 19, 2008

As the Somali Bantu refugee population grows in the U.S., so does the presentation and dissemination of that culture's heritage — including its music. A Center for Research on Vermont seminar, "Music of the Somali Bantu in Vermont: Music, Identity, and Refugees," will feature the first-known study of this phenomenon — Somali Bantu music culture in relocation in the U.S.

The seminar, which is free and open to the public, will take place on Thursday, Nov. 20 at 7:30 p.m. Memorial Lounge, Waterman Building

The research is based on fieldwork with the Somali Bantu community of Burlington, Vt., and illustrates how musical practices once separate in Somalia are joined in relocation. This original research provides a reference for future work with Somali Bantu music, studies of the Somali Bantu in the U.S., studies of refugee artistic practice, and as a data point for studies of refugee acculturation in Vermont.

The research is presented by Simeon Chapin, who was raised in central Vermont and holds a master's degree in ethnomusicology from Tufts University. He is the director of marketing and publicity for Cumbancha, an internationally recognized record label based in Charlotte, Vt. Local Somali Bantu musician and research partner Omar Hussein Mohamed will attend and perform songs from the repertoire. Mohamed, of Jilib, Somalia, has been a performer of music since he was a child. A founding member of the Jilib Audio Video Club that provides entertainment and media services to the Somali Bantu community, he has also performed solo on many festival stages throughout the region.

Information: 656-4389, crv@uvm.edu.

 [PRINT](#) | [EMAIL THIS PAGE](#)
Text Size: [Sm](#) | [Md](#) | [Lg](#)

CURRENT FEATURES

[Vega in Vermont](#)

It seems somehow unlikely that trumpet virtuoso and lifelong New Yorker Ray Vega, one of world's great jazz and Latin jazz artists, would trade 47 years at the center of the jazz universe for a new start in the slightly smaller world of Burlington, Vt. But the newest member of UVM's Jazz Studies Program, who began teaching at the university in September, has his reasons.

[The Stories that Stay](#)

When refugees arrive on American soil, resettlement efforts are centered on basic necessities. Talk to them and they tell you they are grateful. They know that they are the lucky ones. And yet. A fresh start and a welcoming community cannot shut off an inner slideshow of suffering, violence, loss, and fear. Karen Fondacaro and a team of passionate graduate students stepped into the void, launching Connecting Cultures, a groundbreaking clinical science program to serve their mental health needs.

[Everyday Life in "New France"](#)

The week before Thanksgiving Joseph-André Senécal will pack up his belongings accumulated over a 30-year career as a professor of Romance languages and move to Idaho. Making the trip west will be three steel filing cabinets filled with information he compiled on the lives of French colonists and soldiers who manned a fort and developed a settlement in Addison, Vt. in the 1730s on the shores of

NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

SUBSCRIBE
(ENTER E-MAIL)

UVM HOMEPAGE

See Toys, Give Toys

By The View Staff

Article published November 19, 2008

The UVM Department of Theatre presents its annual holiday favorite *The Toys Take Over Christmas* by Patricia Clapp running Dec. 6 and 7 at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. at the Royall Tyler Theatre. Tickets are \$12 for all Adults and \$7 for children under 14.

Directed by Chongho Kim, *Toys*, a local favorite for all ages celebrates its 18th anniversary in the Department of Theatre and continues with a toy drive for Vermont's Toys for Kids in conjunction with the Marine Corp. League, WPTZ and the Salvation Army. During the week of Dec. 1-7, please bring a new, unwrapped toy to the UVM Theatre Box Office in the Royall Tyler Theatre between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or during performance times.

Tickets are selling out fast but are still available and can be purchased [online](#), at the Box Office at the Royall Tyler Theatre by walk-up, or by calling 656-2094. The Box Office will be closed the week of Nov. 24 and will re-open for *Toys* sales on Monday, Dec. 1.

 [PRINT](#) | [EMAIL THIS PAGE](#)
Text Size: [Sm](#) | [Md](#) | [Lg](#)

CURRENT FEATURES

[Vega in Vermont](#)

It seems somehow unlikely that trumpet virtuoso and lifelong New Yorker Ray Vega, one of world's great jazz and Latin jazz artists, would trade 47 years at the center of the jazz universe for a new start in the slightly smaller world of Burlington, Vt. But the newest member of UVM's Jazz Studies Program, who began teaching at the university in September, has his reasons.

[The Stories that Stay](#)

When refugees arrive on American soil, resettlement efforts are centered on basic necessities. Talk to them and they tell you they are grateful. They know that they are the lucky ones. And yet. A fresh start and a welcoming community cannot shut off an inner slideshow of suffering, violence, loss, and fear. Karen Fondacaro and a team of passionate graduate students stepped into the void, launching Connecting Cultures, a groundbreaking clinical science program to serve their mental health needs.

[Everyday Life in "New France"](#)

The week before Thanksgiving Joseph-André Senécal will pack up his belongings accumulated over a 30-year career as a professor of Romance languages and move to Idaho. Making the trip west will be three steel filing cabinets filled with information he compiled on the lives of French colonists and soldiers who manned a fort and developed a settlement in Addison, Vt. in the 1730s on the shores of

NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

SUBSCRIBE
(ENTER E-MAIL)

UVM HOMEPAGE

Art, Art Education Work on Display at the Colburn Gallery

By Amanda Waite

Article published November 19, 2008

Two exhibits featuring student artwork will be on display in William's Hall's Colburn Gallery in the coming weeks. The first exhibit, "Creating & Connecting: Artwork by K-12 Public School Students" is curated by student-teachers in the art education program and features art by area K-12 students. See the exhibit through Saturday, Nov. 22.

Following Thanksgiving week, a new exhibit, "Baroque House of Fur," will go on display in the space. Students from Professor Thomas Brennan's Advanced Photography course will show four to eight photographs taken over the course of the semester. That exhibit will run Dec. 1 through Dec. 5, with a reception on Wednesday, Dec. 3 from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

"The work encompasses a range of media/processes from black and white prints produced in a silver-based darkroom to color images created with digital cameras/software and inkjet printers," Brennan says. "The exhibition will include a diversity of subject matter that the students have explored from the personal to the public, the experiential to the conceptual."

Student-artists have requested that reception attendees wear fur (real or fake) to the event. "The dress code is a way of restricting access to the food that is commonly available at gallery openings," Brennan explains, "no fur, no cheese cubes."

Information: 656-656-2014.

PRINT | EMAIL THIS PAGE
Text Size: [Sm](#) | [Md](#) | [Lg](#)

CURRENT FEATURES

[Vega in Vermont](#)

It seems somehow unlikely that trumpet virtuoso and lifelong New Yorker Ray Vega, one of world's great jazz and Latin jazz artists, would trade 47 years at the center of the jazz universe for a new start in the slightly smaller world of Burlington, Vt. But the newest member of UVM's Jazz Studies Program, who began teaching at the university in September, has his reasons.

[The Stories that Stay](#)

When refugees arrive on American soil, resettlement efforts are centered on basic necessities. Talk to them and they tell you they are grateful. They know that they are the lucky ones. And yet. A fresh start and a welcoming community cannot shut off an inner slideshow of suffering, violence, loss, and fear. Karen Fondacaro and a team of passionate graduate students stepped into the void, launching Connecting Cultures, a groundbreaking clinical science program to serve their mental health needs.

[Everyday Life in "New France"](#)

The week before Thanksgiving Joseph-André Senécal will pack up his belongings accumulated over a 30-year career as a professor of Romance languages and move to Idaho. Making the trip west will be three steel filing cabinets filled with information he compiled on the lives of French colonists and soldiers who manned a fort and developed a settlement in Addison, Vt. in the 1730s on the shores of

NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

SUBSCRIBE
(ENTER E-MAIL)

UVM HOMEPAGE

UVM Holiday Bazaar Set for Dec. 2

By View Staff

Article published November 19, 2008

The 2008 UVM Holiday Bazaar featuring artwork and crafts made by faculty, staff and retirees is scheduled for Dec. 2 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Grand Maple Ballroom of the Dudley H. Davis Center.

More than 35 participating vendors have signed up for this year's event, which highlights the work of UVM artisans including members of the staff, faculty, student body and retirees. The handmade items for sale include hand-turned wooden bowls, water color paintings, ornaments, pottery, jewelry, felt bags and hats, sugared pecans, cutting boards, knitted items and more.

"There are some really fine artisans at the bazaar," said Lynn Cummings, whose water color paintings have become a favorite over the past five years. "It's a chance for people to get some holiday shopping done early and support staff, faculty and retirees."

The bazaar serves as a fund-raiser for the Staff Council's Recreation Committee, which in turn provides funding to help defray the cost of events they organize on behalf of staff. In addition to supporting the artisans, proceeds go toward the Community Service Award Program.

Staff members can participate by donating handmade crafts and home-baked goods to sell or raffle at the Recreation Committee tables.

More information: [holiday bazaar](#).

 [PRINT](#) | [EMAIL THIS PAGE](#)
Text Size: [Sm](#) | [Md](#) | [Lg](#)

CURRENT FEATURES

[Vega in Vermont](#)

It seems somehow unlikely that trumpet virtuoso and lifelong New Yorker Ray Vega, one of world's great jazz and Latin jazz artists, would trade 47 years at the center of the jazz universe for a new start in the slightly smaller world of Burlington, Vt. But the newest member of UVM's Jazz Studies Program, who began teaching at the university in September, has his reasons.

[The Stories that Stay](#)

When refugees arrive on American soil, resettlement efforts are centered on basic necessities. Talk to them and they tell you they are grateful. They know that they are the lucky ones. And yet. A fresh start and a welcoming community cannot shut off an inner slideshow of suffering, violence, loss, and fear. Karen Fondacaro and a team of passionate graduate students stepped into the void, launching Connecting Cultures, a groundbreaking clinical science program to serve their mental health needs.

[Everyday Life in "New France"](#)

The week before Thanksgiving Joseph-André Senécal will pack up his belongings accumulated over a 30-year career as a professor of Romance languages and move to Idaho. Making the trip west will be three steel filing cabinets filled with information he compiled on the lives of French colonists and soldiers who manned a fort and developed a settlement in Addison, Vt. in the 1730s on the shores of

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

NOTABLES

November 19, 2008

Publications and Presentations

Mary Cushman, professor of medicine, and **Neil Zakai**, assistant professor of medicine, are co-authors on a paper in the October 2008 *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society* titled "Anemia Is Associated with the Progression of White Matter Disease in Older Adults with High Blood Pressure: The Cardiovascular Health Study."

Awards and Honors

Three faculty members in the department of pediatrics were recognized at the recent fall meeting of the American Academy of Pediatrics Vermont Chapter. **Paula Duncan**, clinical professor of pediatrics and medical director of the Area Health Education Centers program, **Joseph Hagan**, clinical professor of pediatrics, and **Judith Shaw**, research associate professor of pediatrics and executive director of the Vermont Child Health Improvement Program, jointly received the 2008 Green Mountain Pediatrician award. Traditionally, this award is given to a chapter member who has shown outstanding service and dedication to the care of children. For the 2008 Green Mountain Pediatrician award, VT AAP members voted unanimously to present the award to this group for their incredible vision, work, and leadership. Duncan, Hagan and Shaw are editors of the new AAP Bright Futures Guidelines for Health Supervision. In addition, Shaw was awarded a special honorary membership in the Vermont Chapter due to her outstanding leadership and devotion to children's issues and improving the systems of care that affect the health and well-being of children. According to current Vermont Chapter President Kimberly Aakre, "Judy has been one of our Chapter's exceptional partners, working with us on behalf of Vermont's children and families. We believe she is truly a 'Vermont pediatrician' at heart and are honored to have her as one of our members."

John P. Burke, Professor political science, gave the keynote address on Nov. 14 on the "Presidency of George W. Bush," at a conference hosted by Grand Valley State University's Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies, Grand Rapids, MI.

Mary Cushman, professor of medicine, has been named the chair of the American Heart Association (AHA) Council on Epidemiology

and Prevention. This multidisciplinary council, a science arm of AHA, is dedicated to understanding the causes of cardiovascular disease and applying knowledge to optimize cardiovascular health across the lifespan in diverse populations, as well as promoting advocacy at all levels. With this post, Cushman serves on the Science Advisory and Coordinating Committee (SACC) of AHA. SACC reports to the AHA Board of Directors and in that function, serves as the final review group for all science statements or comments arising from the AHA, which publishes about 50 Scientific Statements and Guidelines each year.

November 12, 2008

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