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UVM HOMEPAGE

The Importance of Essays

PERSONAL ESSAY

This personal statement helps us become acquainted with you in ways different from the classroom. It demonstrates your ability to organize thoughts and express yourself. We are looking for a student. Please write an essay (250-500 words) on a topic of your choice, checking the appropriate box below.

- ☒ 1 Evaluate a significant experience, achievement, risk you have taken, or a challenge you have faced.
- ☐ 2 Discuss some issue of personal, local, national, or international concern.
- ☐ 3 Indicate a person who has had a significant influence on you, and explain that influence.
- ☐ 4 Describe a character in fiction, an historical figure, or a creative work, and explain that influence.
- ☐ 5 A range of academic interests, personal perspectives, and life experiences. Personal background, describe an experience that illustrates what you have learned or an encounter that demonstrated the importance of diversity to you.
- ☐ 6 Topic of your choice.

Reading student essays is one of the most time-consuming — and rewarding — parts of the application-evaluation season.

The Phish-heads are fading out, the Red Sox nation is in decline, but we'll always have snowboarding — it is as fast and flowing now as ever. Welcome to the ever-evolving yet strangely constant world of the college admissions essay.

[FULL STORY ►](#)

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Triple Threat A two-sport varsity athlete, senior Amy Cochran is also an academic all-star who describes herself as an analytical person, always trying to figure out how things are done. "Life is like a chess game to me," she says. "You want to reach your potential in everything you do, but how do you do that?"

Peer Pressures On nearly every playground there's a child with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder struggling to gain acceptance from classmates. Betsy Hoza, professor of psychology, believes the answers to many of the social problems experienced by children with the condition are yet to be discovered.

THE WEEK IN VIEW

Dec. 1, 1 p.m.
Commemoration: "Standing on the Shoulders of Our Sisters," a service honoring civil rights leader Rosa Parks. Ira Allen Chapel. Information: Willi Coleman or Sally Wales, 656-8818.

Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m.
Concert: UVM Lane Series presents, "My Lord Chamberlain's Consort - To Drive the Cold Winter Away." UVM Recital Hall. Information: 656-4455 or [Lane Series](#)

Dec. 3, 6 p.m. Play: UVM Theatre presents, "The Toys Take Over Christmas." Please bring a new unwrapped toy. Royall Tyler Theatre. Information: 656-2094 or [UVM Theatre](#)

Dec. 6, 3:30 p.m.
Lecture: "The Racial Gap in Autonomy at Work," with Elaine McCrate, Economics Department. Old Mill, Room 221. Information: 656-3064 or [Economics](#)

Dec. 6, Noon.
Concert: UVM's Catamount Singers will perform holiday and world music including works of Robert deCormier and Gwyneth Walker. Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 2 Cherry Street, Burlington. Information: 656-3040 or [Catamount Singers](#)

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UVM HOMEPAGE

The Importance of Essays

They're still key, but not always for the reasons you might expect. Three admissions officers talk about their experiences in the reading season.

By Kevin Foley

Article published Nov 30, 2005

PERSONAL ESSAY

This personal statement helps us become acquainted with you in ways different from your transcripts. It demonstrates your ability to organize thoughts and express yourself. We are interested in your perspective as a student. Please write an essay (250-500 words) on a topic of your choice, checking the appropriate box below:

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Reading student essays is one of the most time-consuming — and rewarding — parts of the application-evaluation season.

The Phish-heads are fading out, the Red Sox nation is in decline, but we'll always have snowboarding — it is as fast and flowing now as ever.

Welcome to the ever-evolving yet strangely constant world of the college admissions essay, a once-a-year window into the topics most on the minds of ambitious high school seniors — and, more importantly, perhaps the best opportunity for busy admissions officers

to look beyond transcripts and apprise the personality of an applicant.

"You can't just crunch numbers. Anything that gives us the sense of the person is what makes this interesting work," says Susan Wertheimer, associate director of admissions. "I always look forward to the reading season — as busy as it is, it's what keeps me coming back year after year."

Nearly 7,000 early applications have already flooded into admissions, with thousands more to come with regular deadlines. And so Wertheimer and her colleagues are reading, reading, reading: about service trips to Costa Rica, about crusty-but-inspiring coaches, about personal triumphs and travails of all kinds, even about the odd blemish. The hours are long, but for Wertheimer — as well as admissions officers Daniel Fredman and Ingrid Fleisher — looking at the essays is one of the best parts of the job.

"I like the ones that can really put me in that person's shoes and perspective, just a really well-written piece that takes you away from what we're doing here," Fredman says.

"Coming into the position," Fleisher says, "I was worried about all the reading of applications, but it's my favorite part now. I get a sense of what students are like today. Some of the stories are fun, others remind me of what I was like in high school."

Ordinary turned extraordinary

Which is not to say that Fleisher is equally open to everything. "If I have to read one more essay about the Red Sox winning the World Series or 'Sweet Caroline,' I'll..." She trails off, perhaps still traumatized by last year's Boston deluge.

Whether they deal with Neil Diamond or volunteering in Dominica, most student essays are the product of an effort that can feel momentous. High school students, particularly at private schools and in suburban districts, are

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Triple Threat

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counseled through a long process of conception and revision only slightly less daunting than launching a Space Shuttle. Consultants vie with guidance counselors and parents to assist, while shady Internet ads promise to expedite exposition for "\$6.95 a page."

But the truth of the matter, Wertheimer says, is that at most schools, including UVM, essays are mostly a bonus factor or tiebreaker for applications.

Despite this, admissions officers say essays are important, and that great ones frequently inspire them to look harder at student's academic record. This additional scrutiny could make the difference between acceptance and a decline. An essay can explain a bad grade or even a rough semester, or just point out a hidden passion not immediately obvious on a transcript.

But what, exactly, is a great essay? Like Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart and obscenity, Wertheimer knows it when she sees it, but definitions are problematic. Specifying essay boundaries too closely limits creativity and might add excess anxiety to a process that Wertheimer believes is already too emotionally fraught.

But she knows this: It's not just the topic. Some remarkable essays describe tragedy and dislocation — death, disease, fleeing from war. But other essays manage the difficult trick of being both deeply personal and universal, conjuring something resonant out of everyday happenings like flunking a test or saying goodbye to a friend moving away.

"Ordinary life events, in the right hands, can be very powerful," Wertheimer says.

Admissions officers say that essays should give them a sense of the applicant as a person, so the field is wide. UVM's application invites students to "evaluate a significant experience," discuss an issue of public concern, ruminate on a personally significant individual, describe a fictional character, discuss diversity or take on a topic of their choice.

"Students are offered an opportunity to say something about him or herself. The topics are open-ended," Wertheimer says.

That offers plenty of room for happy surprises. (And some flops.)

Autobiographical errors

For Wertheimer, an essay's downfall can be too much polish — calculated efforts that almost shimmer from an admissions consultant's too-vigorous rubdown. For Fredman, it's the occasional howler error, references like, "I'm looking forward to studying at Cornell." Fleisher loathes misspellings.

A fresh approach helps. "I'll sometimes start an essay and think, 'Oh, this one again.'" Fredman says. "Some subjects can be tricky to make interesting again. You know, 'I love snowboarding.' Or 'my experience traveling hundreds of miles to get to Coventry:' you know, the Phish-head stuff (a dying breed in applications). Summer camp. But sometimes the familiar can be good. It's OK to go near subjects that have been touched before, but with a new perspective."

But not too fresh. Humor is always welcome, as long as the essay doesn't cross the line. "I'm someone who enjoys humor — however, in a college essay, you're not writing for *The Onion*. If you go the humor route, show it to someone. An adult," Wertheimer says. "What you consider funny might be disturbing to a middle-aged admission officer."

Some other observations from the reading rooms: Writing by Vermont students is often relatively reticent. Accounts of service trips to other countries are popular. ("My college essay was about a trip to Nicaragua," Fleisher says somewhat ruefully. "I remember thinking that it was unique, but being here, I've read at least three.") Huge world events — September 11, war in Iraq — are tough to pull off. Sports essays can work, but many approaches to them are familiar.

The best essays, like any literary endeavor, kindle fellow feeling in their

readers. And even with the current accelerating deluge of applications, UVM admissions officers approach the essays receptively, even eagerly, especially in cases where the writing can make an application.

"My feeling is that students put a lot of time into their essays and it is my obligation to read them carefully," says Fredman, a 2003 UVM graduate. "It's funny. When I was in high school, I think I thought of some old codger reading essays and sitting around the table discussing them with other old codgers. I never imagined that the reader would be someone like me."

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Triple Threat

Skiing, soccer, or physics, the current Cochran excels

By Lisa Champagne

Article published Nov 30, 2005



On the ball: Amy Cochran excels in two sports — and physics. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

A two-sport varsity athlete, senior Amy Cochran is also an academic all-star who describes herself as an analytical person, always trying to figure out how things are done. "Life is like a chess game to me," she says. "You want to reach your potential in everything you do, but how do you do that?"

The Catamount soccer player/skier, who was again honored as first-team academic all-

American by *ESPN The Magazine* this week, and was the 2004-05 America East Women's Scholar-Athlete of the Year, is following in the footsteps of a highly talented family of athletes. Both of her parents, Robert Cochran '76 MD '81 and Janet Lynch earned Hall of Fame honors at UVM. And her older brother Jimmy, whom she calls her role model in skiing, also competed at Vermont for one season before leaving school to join the U.S. Ski Team, of which he is a current member.

"It's great to have my family as a resource. They've competed at the highest levels, they've been there and done it so they can guide me," Amy Cochran says. "Both my parents were my coaches when I was growing up. My dad was my ski coach and my mom was my track coach and having them around all the time was wonderful."

This fall, Cochran played a key role in helping the Catamount soccer team make their first playoff appearance in seven years. Cochran led America East in scoring for the second straight year with 25 points, on nine goals and a league-high seven assists, and became the first Vermont player since 1997 to earn America East All-Conference First Team honors. The season's highlights included scoring all four goals for Vermont in back-to-back 2-0 victories at Massachusetts and Binghamton, performances that earned her America East Player of the Week and ECAC Division I Women's Soccer Player of the Week recognition.

Quantum mechanic

As she trades her cleats for skis this winter, Cochran will be looking to build on last year when she was one of the top-ranked alpine skiers in the East and earned a spot on the Catamount's NCAA team. She picked up two All-America citations at the national championships and had the top time after the first run of the slalom, before skiing off course ("a little detour" in Cochran's words) on the second run. Vermont finished as the national-runner up at the 2005 NCAA Championships.

"It was an unbelievable experience to make the NCAA team. My coaches showed a lot of faith and confidence in me and that gave me a lot of confidence," Cochran says. "It was a special moment to ski at Stowe, a mountain I have trained on many, many times, and have my friends and family able to be there and see me compete."

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Admissions Essays

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Peer Pressures

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Cochran credits soccer with keeping her in top shape for skiing and says the mental intensity of skiing has taught her how to maintain focus on the soccer field. If forced to choose, she admits to a greater passion for being on the pitch. Cochran spent the summer playing for the Vermont Lady Voltage in the W-League, the highest league in the United States, and was the team's leading scorer.

When she's not competing or training, Cochran spends her time studying, reading or playing the guitar. She owns a 3.98 cumulative GPA as a physics major at Vermont. Why physics? "I had a very good teacher in high school that got me interested in the subject. I like math and the challenges that physics presents," says Cochran. Her favorite class is quantum mechanics, an area where she plans to focus her senior thesis. (Cochran is a junior athletically in soccer, missing the fall semester of her freshman year with an injury, but is a senior academically and as a skier).

For all of her achievements as a soccer player and as a skier, Cochran has received the most accolades for her dual skills as an athlete and a student. In 2004-05, Cochran was one of two student-athletes in the country to earn a spot on two academic All-America teams in the same year. She was the program's first academic All-American after earning a spot on the *ESPN The Magazine* Women's Soccer Academic All-America Team. Cochran followed that up by earning a spot on the ESPN The Magazine Women's At-Large Academic All-America Team for her skiing exploits. Earning a spot on the at-large team was an impressive feat considering she was vying for a spot with student-athletes from 15 sports from around the country.

"I couldn't be happier. My experience here has been great," she says. "UVM has everything, great people, great town, great classes and great athletics."

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Peer Pressures

UVM psychologist's work aims to improve the lives of children with ADHD socially — and comprehensively

By Jon Reidel

Article published Nov 30, 2005



Betsy Hoza, professor of psychology, started a new service for children with ADHD at John Dewey Hall. (Photo: Sally McCay)

On nearly every playground there's a child with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder struggling to gain acceptance. Some are overtly rejected by their peers, while others are ignored or left out of games. Betsy Hoza, professor of psychology, believes the answers to many of the social problems experienced by children with the condition are yet to be discovered.

Despite the plethora of information released

each year on ADHD, surprisingly little is known about peer relationships of children with the condition. Hoza, who arrived at the university in the summer from Purdue University with her research team, is conducting studies on how ADHD initially contributes to problematic relationships with other kids and how those problems play out over time. "Once children with ADHD develop a negative reputation with peers, the reputation takes on a life of its own and becomes an additional impediment these children need to overcome," says Hoza.

Hoza's ongoing research has shown that even after the behavior of children with ADHD has changed, their negative reputation remains. Unraveling this difficult dilemma is one area that Hoza, who arrived at UVM recently from Purdue University, plans to focus her work at UVM on. "The end goal is to improve the lives of children with ADHD, generally, not just in the social domain," she says. "My research is designed to apply what is learned toward developing better evidence-based treatments. It's geared toward better understanding the social, academic and self-concept functioning of children with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder from a developmental psychopathology perspective. Children with ADHD typically struggle in multiple domains."

In support of her treatment program, Hoza opened the Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder Service in October within the existing Behavior Therapy and Psychotherapy Center, a nonprofit outpatient mental health clinic associated with the Department of Psychology. The service offers research-based behavior-modification treatments to 5-to-12-year-olds with ADHD and their families, and allows Hoza to learn more about a condition that affects about five percent of U.S. children.

Hoza also plans to offer a summer camp for children with and without ADHD. The camp is part of another NIMH grant started at Purdue two years ago that Hoza brought with her to UVM. In pilot work for this project, she found that many children with ADHD tended to report about themselves in an embellished way; not very tuned-in to their problems, particularly in the areas in which they struggled most. She's hoping the UVM camp sheds light on why this is the case, in addition to building social skills and providing opportunities for well-

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structured, fun summer activities.

Unraveling the ADHD mystery

Hoza has worked on some of the largest ADHD research projects in the nation. She served as co-investigator at the Pittsburgh site of the Multimodal Treatment Study of Children with ADHD since the study's inception almost a decade ago. Considered a landmark study in children's mental health, the MTA began as a clinical trial comparing treatment strategies (medication; behavioral treatment; and a combination of both) for ADHD, and included six sites in the U.S. and Canada involving 579 children between the ages of seven and 10.

Hoza is helping facilitate 10-year follow-up assessments. Early results indicate that all treatment groups improved over time, with medication and the combination of behavior therapy with medication working best at reducing symptoms. However, for most other problems such as parent-child problems and aggression that go along with ADHD, combined treatment was the only condition that was consistently superior to community care. Thus far, the findings highlight the importance of combined treatment strategies involving the use of behavior therapy in treating childhood ADHD.

The amount of in-progress research that Hoza has brought to UVM is considerable. As her projects approach fruition, Hoza plans to continue trying to search for better answers to a condition that she says can destroy lives if not properly addressed.

"Peer rejection, if left unchecked, leads to a variety of problems – substance abuse, dropping out of school, criminality, mental health disorders – that ultimately place the child on a perhaps irreversible negative trajectory," she says. "Just as one would not identify physical disease in a child and let it go untreated, we should not identify peer rejection and then let it go unchecked."

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[UVM Names Research Wing for Starbuck Family](#)

Nov 28, 2005

The university will name a wing of its Colchester Research Facility in honor of alums George '62 and Pammella Starbuck '83 and their family, in recognition of a \$2.7 million gift resulting from the sale of the former Aquatec building at 208 South Park in Colchester.

[November Trustees Coverage](#)

Nov 28, 2005

The Nov. 17-19 meetings of the University of Vermont Board of Trustees featured an update on construction projects and the university's financial status, as well as a report of President Daniel Mark Fogel's keynote address at a recent major higher-education conference in Chicago.

[Pizzagalli Gift Will Fund Nursing Scholarships](#)

Nov 29, 2005

The College of Nursing and Health Sciences is the recipient of a \$350,000 gift to support scholarships for undergraduate and graduate nursing students.

[UVM in the October News](#)

Nov 28, 2005

From President Fogel's reflection on seeing Chinese higher-education first-hand to post-graduation plans to an ancient Vermont coral reef, University of Vermont experts were featured broadly in the news media during October.

[Professors-at-Large Program to Bring Economist, Musician and Environmentalist to Campus](#)

Nov 30, 2005

Three scholars have been appointed James Marsh Professors-at-Large, a new program at UVM that will bring outstanding individuals of international distinction in the arts and humanities, sciences, social sciences and applied fields to campus to invigorate the intellectual and cultural life of the university.

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UVM Names Research Wing for Starbuck Family

By Jay Goyette

Article published Nov 28, 2005

The university will name a wing of its Colchester Research Facility in honor of alums George '62 and Pammella Starbuck '83 and their family, in recognition of a \$2.7 million gift resulting from the sale of the former Aquatec building at 208 South Park in Colchester.

The 37,500-square-foot Starbuck Family Wing of UVM's Colchester Research Facility houses research laboratories of the UVM College of Medicine where groundbreaking work has been done on risk factors related to cardiovascular health. UVM had leased the facility for more than a decade and purchased it this year to keep pace with its growing research activities. The sale price was significantly below its market value.

"We are very grateful indeed to the Starbuck family for their extraordinary generosity," says President Daniel Mark Fogel. "Their gift has a profound impact on UVM and our capacity to engage in research of the highest caliber."

The Starbuck family has longstanding ties to the university. George Starbuck served for fifteen years as a member of the advisory board to the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences. His father, also George, completed undergraduate work at UVM in 1935, received his M.D. in 1938, and served as president of the Medical Alumni Association. His mother, Rachel Closson Starbuck, was also a UVM graduate, class of 1934, as is a son, Michael, class of 1986.

"Our family has been close to the university for a very long time," says George Starbuck. "We were thrilled to be able to help them acquire an outstanding research facility at a cost significantly below market and honored that the wing will always carry our family name."

The Starbuck family was honored for their gift at a reception in the university's new Medical Education Pavilion on Nov. 28.

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By University Communications Staff

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Fogel said he addressed the largest annual meeting of admissions deans and directors to discuss aspects of his "vision" for the university in a talk titled "An Invest-and-Grow Strategy for Institutional Advancement: The Presidential View of Enrollment Management." Fogel explained how the conclusion of his Chicago speech favorably compared his optimistic vision for the university in 2012 with the actual results as seen in 2005.

"Today I am happy and even a little astonished to report that we are well on the way to exceeding all of those projections," he told trustees.

Fogel cited a variety of indicators, including strong provisional numbers of early action applications for the class of 2010, that suggest that progress is continuing. He then mused about the reasons for UVM's recent success, saying that he believes that hard work across the university — by students, faculty, administration, trustees and staff — is synergistic, greater than the sum of its parts. Fogel said that for the work to continue yielding such dramatic rewards, the institution must continue investing prudently but assertively in its future.

"But if there is one 'big thing' that I would propose the board should take on as the centerpiece of its efforts over the next few years, it is to work together to figure out how to square the circle on the strategic financial plan, how to find a way within the bounds of fiduciary responsibility to get done the projects that we believe are critical, indeed essential, for the well-being of the university," Fogel said. "When the board endorsed the vision some two years ago, it expressed a conviction that a failure to commit to sustained investment in excellence would carry unacceptable risks for the university. Recent experience has shown how dramatically high our return on investment has been, in a much shorter time than many of us had imagined possible."

Fogel's report to the full board is available here: [November Report to Board](#).

The board next meets Feb. 9-11, 2006. Highlights of November committee proceedings follow. A longer version of this coverage is available at [Trustees Check In on 'Vision' Progress, New Construction](#).

Facilities and Technologies: Trustees received updates on two projects that are in the study/design process. A new plant sciences building would house College of Agriculture and Life Sciences programs in botany and agricultural biochemistry and plant and soil science. The tentative site for the three-story building is just to the southeast of the water tower. The committee also heard about plans to expand and renovate the Harris/Millis Dining Hall.

Finance and Budget: The committee reviewed updated results of the strategic financial plan. The updated model includes \$276 million in projected capital expenditures through 2015. With more projects under consideration, committee members were charged with finding ways to finance capital spending while maintaining an acceptable level of debt.

The group supported the university's multi-year plan to bring summer session tuition rates in line with that of regular tuition rates by increasing in-state summer tuition by \$27 and out-of-state tuition by \$85.

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A proposal was supported to ask the Vermont State Legislature for a five percent increase in the state appropriation for FY 2007 bringing the total state contribution to \$42.3 million.

Academic and Student Programs: Committee members approved the establishment of the Certificate of Public Communication offered by the Division of Continuing Education and the College of Agriculture and Life Science. Committee members approved the renaming of the Department of Physical Therapy to the Department of Rehabilitation and Movement Science. They also approved moving the athletic training major from the College of Education and Social Services to the College of Nursing and Health Sciences and the establishment of a new major in Exercise and Movement Sciences and a new minor in Health, Exercise and Fitness.

Advancement: The group heard a report on private support for the university through the first quarter of FY 2006, which was down from the prior year by approximately \$1.8 million (\$4.4 million in the current year vs. \$6.2 million a year ago). The prior year's results were skewed upward by a \$2 million early payment on a commitment from a foundation.

Trustees also heard an update on the \$250 million Campaign for the University of Vermont, which broke the \$205 million mark as of the end of October. A total of \$205,346,221 has been raised in the campaign to date, or 82 percent of the goal, with just under two years remaining in the six-year campaign timeline.

Diversity: Willi Coleman, vice provost for multicultural affairs, presented her office's annual report. Highlights of their work include the Henderson Fellowship program, the Faculty Resources Network, the Center for Cultural Pluralism, department-level support for curriculum and faculty diversity and funding myriad initiatives generated by other campus programs.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Pizzagalli Gift Will Fund Nursing Scholarships

By Jay Goyette

Article published Nov 29, 2005

The College of Nursing and Health Sciences is the recipient of a \$350,000 gift to support scholarships for undergraduate and graduate nursing students.

The Remo and Donna Pizzagalli Endowed Scholarship Fund will provide annual scholarship awards, with preference given to Vermont residents who do not qualify for need-based financial assistance.

The Pizzagallis said their scholarship giving — \$350,000 each to UVM, Saint Michael's College and Champlain College — is to support the institutions their children attended by providing assistance to deserving students. Their daughter Maria Pizzagalli Bradley earned undergraduate degrees from UVM in 1992 and 1998, in business administration and in physical therapy, respectively.

"Donna and I had initially thought about making a million dollar gift to one local institution," says Remo Pizzagalli. "But our three children graduated from UVM, St. Michael's, and Champlain College. As we talked it over, we decided it would make sense to divide our gift among these three institutions that are so important to the local community and beyond."

Pizzagalli said limiting the scholarships to students who do not qualify for need-based grant aid is intended to help students from middle-income families who increasingly must rely on loans to finance their education.

Donna Pizzagalli is a graduate of Mary Fletcher School of Nursing and a former operating room nurse. She served on UVM's nursing board of advisors from 1996 to 2000.

"This gift from the Pizzagallis is exceptionally meaningful during this time of profound challenges in health care," says Betty Rambur, dean of UVM's College of Nursing and Health Sciences. "The scholarships will enable highly qualified individuals to study nursing at the University of Vermont and serve critical health needs in our region and our world. We are deeply grateful."

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UVM HOMEPAGE

UVM in the October News

By Amanda Waite

Article published Nov 28, 2005

From President Fogel's reflections on seeing Chinese higher-education first-hand to post-graduation plans to an ancient Vermont coral reef, University of Vermont experts were featured broadly in the news media during October.

Following are some highlights from the full [UVM in the News](#) report.

- **President's Opinion:** An op-ed article by President Daniel Mark Fogel on the importance of American students being able to compete with their Chinese peers appeared in the *Washington Post* on Oct. 18. Fogel, who recently visited China to forge connections between Chinese educational institutions and UVM, was impressed by the level of dedication to education he witnessed, both at a national level and an individual level, and expressed his hope that American students and institutions will "maintain a viable place in the economy of a Chinese century." The piece also appeared in many other newspapers.
- **After Graduation:** Zach Carson, who graduated from UVM in May, was featured in an Oct. 23 article in the *New York Times* about the increasing number of students who are choosing to take a year off after college to seek new experiences, test a career, or devote time to community service before beginning a career or a graduate program. Carson has been driving across the country in a bus that runs on recycled vegetable oil in an effort to promote alternative fuels. The article included a photo of Carson as well as a photo of Laurie Heckman, a fellow UVM alum who is taking a year off before applying to graduate programs. Pam Gardener, director of Career Services, offered perspective on the phenomenon.
- **Chazy Reef:** Charlotte Mehrtens, chair of the geology department, was quoted in an Oct. 12 Associated Press article about the Chazy Reef, believed to be the world's oldest coral reef. Part of the reef is located in the northern section of Lake Champlain as part of Isle La Motte, the location that Mehrtens claims offers the most visibility of the reef and that will now be preserved and open to the public. The article appeared in dozens of publications, including the *Seattle Times*, *Chicago Sun Times*, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, *Las Vegas Sun*, *USA Today*, *Wired News*, *Cox.net*, and the *Rutland Herald* and *Times Argus* locally. Mehrtens was also quoted in an Oct. 12 article in the *Burlington Free Press* on the preservation of the reef.
- **Vermont Brand:** The Center for Rural Studies was mentioned in an Associated Press article for its research on the power of the Vermont name in marketing. The center found that using the Vermont name could increase a product's sales by 15 percent. The article appeared on Oct. 26 on Newsday.com and NewsMax.com, on Oct. 27 on Yahoo! Finance and AT&T Worldnet Service, on Oct. 27 in the *Washington Times* and the *St. Petersburg Times*, and on Oct. 30 in the *Chicago Tribune* and the *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*, among others.
- **Acupuncture:** Research by Helene Langevin, research associate professor of neurology, was highlighted in an Oct. 24 article in the *Los Angeles Times* article about Western medicine's quest to learn how acupuncture works. The article also appeared on Oct. 25 in the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*.

Other October articles included Ellen Marsden, associate professor of natural resources and environment, discussing Champ in the *New York Times*; Timothy Perkins, director of the Proctor Maple Research Center, in the *Boston Globe* talking about dull foliage; Gregory Gause, associate professor of political science, on terrorism in the *Guardian*; English Professor Tony Magistrale's horror film seminar in the *Burlington Free Press*; and many more.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Professors-at-Large Program to Bring Economist, Musician and Environmentalist to Campus

By Amanda Waite

Article published Nov 30, 2005

Three scholars have been appointed James Marsh Professors-at-Large, a new program at UVM that will bring outstanding individuals of international distinction in the arts and humanities, sciences, social sciences and applied fields to campus to invigorate the intellectual and cultural life of the university.

David Hemenway, economist and professor of Health Policy at Harvard University and director of the Harvard Injury Control Research Center and the Harvard Youth Violence Prevention Center, will begin visiting campus in the spring semester from March 27 – 31. Sowah Mensa, an ethnomusicologist, composer and a “master drummer” from Ghana, West Africa and professor of music at Macalester College and the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn., and David Orr, chair of the Environmental Studies Program at Oberlin College and world-renowned environmentalist, have also been chosen as the pioneering visiting scholars for the program.

The James Marsh Professors-at-Large Program, named for UVM's fifth president, will bring non-residential professors to campus for several visits over the course of a six-year term-of-office. Visits may last from one to two weeks. Four professors, who may or may not be academics but will typically be affiliated with a teaching or research institution, will be selected each year, and no more than 20 professors will hold the title at any given time.

Although each Professor-at-Large will enrich the university in different ways, scholars will typically offer public lectures; hold office hours; consult with students on undergraduate research projects and honors projects as well as graduate theses and dissertations; and collaborate with students and faculty in scientific research, scholarly projects and creative activities. Chosen for their personal and professional accessibility, scholars will engage with students and colleagues on an informal basis as well as through the variety of structured activities each visit will include.

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[Chemistry Seminar Series Continues](#)

Nov 28, 2005

The Department of Chemistry's extensive fall seminar program continues through Dec. 20 with speakers from Stanford, Cal Tech and Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

[Messiah Sing-Along Dec. 6](#)

Nov 28, 2005

David Neiweem, professor of music, will lead a volunteer chorus of enthusiasts in singing Handel's Christmas classic on Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. in Ira Allen Chapel.

[Honoring Rosa Parks](#)

Nov 29, 2005

On Dec. 1, 1955 Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to relinquish her bus seat to a white passenger. Parks died on Oct. 24. An event, "Standing on the Shoulders of Our Sisters: Honoring Mrs. Rosa Parks," celebrating her and her lifetime of work as an activist, to be held on the 50th anniversary of her historic arrest, will take place Dec. 1 at 1 p.m. in Ira Allen Chapel.

[Talk Discusses Method of Measuring Progress of Democracy Worldwide](#)

Nov 15, 2005

Edward McMahon, research associate professor of community development and applied economics and political science, will discuss one methodology for assessing democratic development in a talk, "How Democratic is the World? The Freedom House Annual Survey of Political Rights and Civil Liberties: 1986-2004," on Nov. 29 at 7 p.m. in North Lounge, Billings.

[Flu Shots Available Nov. 17-18](#)

Nov 15, 2005

Faculty and staff can purchase flu shots Nov. 17-18 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in John Dewey Lounge, Old Mill. The shots are \$10.

[Engineering Sponsors Diverse Outreach Events](#)

Nov 15, 2005

From moon buggies to rapid-prototyping equipment used for wind-tunnel simulations, area elementary school students are getting an engaging introduction to engineering courtesy of a new College of Engineering and Mathematics program.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Chemistry Seminar Series Continues

By The View Staff

Article published Nov 28, 2005

The Department of Chemistry's extensive fall seminar program continues through Dec. 20 with speakers from Stanford, Cal Tech and Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

All talks are at 11 a.m. in B112 Angell unless otherwise noted.

- Dec. 1, Ekaaterina V. Pletneva, California Institute of Technology: "Snapshots of Cytochrome c Folding."
- Dec. 6, Tristan Lambert, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center: "Investigation of New Claisen Rearrangements and Total Synthesis of the Telomerase Inhibitor UCS1025A."
- Dec. 8, Hien Nguyen, Stanford University: "Exploring New Methods for Carbohydrate Synthesis and Total Synthesis of Auriside A and Rameswaralide."
- Dec. 12, 12 p.m. Michael Shaver, Imperial College, London: "Methodology and Mechanism: (i) Silacyclop propane Formation and (ii) Selectivity Trends in C-H Bond Activation."
- Dec. 15, 12 p.m. Thomas Driver, California Institute of Technology: "Methodology and Mechanism: (i) Silacyclop propane Formation and (ii) Selectivity Trends in C-H Bond Activation."
- Dec. 20, John Magyar, California Institute of Technology. "Why is Lead Toxic? Insights from Coordination Chemistry into the Molecular Mechanisms of Lead Poisoning"

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Messiah Sing-Along Dec. 6

By The View Staff

Article published Nov 28, 2005

David Neiweem, professor of music, will lead a volunteer chorus of enthusiasts in singing Handel's Christmas classic on Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. in Ira Allen Chapel.

The event is free and open to the community: just bring a voice and a score (or borrow one from the organizers).

Information: 656-3040

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Honoring Rosa Parks

By The View Staff

Article published Nov 29, 2005

On Dec. 1, 1955 Mrs. Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to relinquish her bus seat to a white passenger. Her act of civil disobedience set the stage for the modern civil rights movement.

Parks died on Oct. 24. An event, "Standing on the Shoulders of Our Sisters: Honoring Mrs. Rosa Parks," celebrating her and her lifetime of work as an activist, to be held on the 50th anniversary of her historic arrest, will take place Dec. 1 at 1 p.m. in Ira Allen Chapel.

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*November 16, 2005***Awards and Honors**

As part of the NWAV 34 (New Ways of Analyzing Variation) conference at New York University held on October 20-23, Department of Communication Sciences student Katherine Sadis received the Charles A. Ferguson Prize for Best Student Poster titled "Learning to talk native: Listeners' perception of speech from three dialect areas." Sadis, a senior, attended the Conference with her advisor Julie Roberts, an associate professor of communication sciences.

Publications and Presentations

Many UVM faculty presented at the 8th Annual Breast Cancer Conference at the Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center in Burlington on Oct. 21, including: Dr. **Seth Harlow**, associate professor of surgery; Dr. **Ruth Heimann**, professor of radiation oncology; Dr. **Julia Johnson**, professor of obstetrics and gynecology; Dr. **David Krag**, S.D. Ireland Professor of Surgical Oncology; Dr. **Richard Lovett**, associate professor of radiology; Dr. **Susan MacLennan**, assistant professor of surgery; Dr. **Hyman Muss**, professor of medicine; Dr. **Johannes "Chris" Nunnink**, clinical associate professor of medicine; Dr. **Patricia O'Brien**, clinical assistant professor of medicine and physical therapy; **Janis Peyser**, clinical associate professor of psychiatry and neurology; Dr. **Terry Rabinowitz**, associate professor of psychiatry and family medicine; Dr. **Deborah Rubin**, associate professor of radiation oncology; Dr. **Dennis Sanders**, assistant professor of medicine; Dr. **Emmanuel Soultanakis**, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology; Dr. **Christian Thomas**, clinical assistant professor of medicine; Dr. **Cheung Wong**, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology; and Dr. **Marie Wood**, associate professor of medicine.

Burton Wilcke, associate professor and chair of the Department of Medical Laboratory and Radiation Sciences, was invited to speak at Hartwick College in Oneonta, New York. His Nov. 7 talk was titled "The Impact of Microbiology on Global Health." Wilcke also was recently appointed to represent the American Public Health Association in the latest revision of the *Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control*. This compendium serves as the basis for animal rabies prevention and control programs throughout the United States.

*November 9, 2005***Awards and Honors**

Betsy Greene, Extension equine specialist, received the prestigious 2005 Sister Elizabeth Candon Distinguished Service Award. This award is presented to a woman who has shown evidence of promoting and working toward the advancement of women in higher education and involvement at the national, regional, state, and local levels in related activities. The award was presented at the annual conference of the Vermont Women in Higher Education.

Laura Lintault, a graduate student in the Department of Animal Science, was awarded second place out of 20 presentations in the graduate student competition at the American Society of Gravitational and Space Biology meetings in Reno. The title of her presentation was "Effects of Hypergravity and Food Intake on Gene Expression of Enzymes in the Liver of Periparturient Rats." Karen Plaut, a former chair of the department, was her master's advisor.