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Thoughtful Teaching



Susan Dinitz works with first-year student Tyler Mitchell on a draft of his paper. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

While critiquing research papers on the Monday morning after Thanksgiving break, Sue Dinitz tells her English 1 students a hard truth – the weakest parts of their papers are the parts they don't understand themselves and fixing sentences won't fix the problems. They need to do more thinking.

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Training Parents for Change

No one could possibly be a stronger advocate for a child with special needs or disabilities than the child's parent. But that can't fix deeper problems in laws or schools. A new effort within the College of Education and Social Services aims to help parents collaborate and lead.

Student Center Gift

Friends and family of Dudley H. Davis '43, a UVM alumnus and legendary Burlington banker, gathered in Memorial Lounge on Nov. 25 to celebrate his life and a key part of his – and the university's – future legacy: the new Dudley H. Davis Center, a \$70 million focal point of student life on campus scheduled for construction next spring.

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In Vermont, rural streams and rivers have lots of friends. But what about the polluted urban waters of Chittenden County? Don't they need boosters? Jurij Homziak, extension assistant professor, and his colleagues are hoping to change the lonely plight of these damaged watersheds.

THE WEEK IN VIEW

Dec. 2, 7 p.m. AIDS Quilt Display, with a talk from *Seven Days* columnist Peter Kurth. Information: [AIDS Awareness](#)

Dec. 3, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. "Winterfest," a celebration of winter observances and holidays from all over the globe. Free food, music and prizes. Billings Student Center.

Dec. 3, 12 p.m. Talk: "A Vermont Time Machine," with Paul Bierman, geology and the Landscape Change Program. John Dewey Lounge, 325 Old Mill. Information: 656-4546

Dec. 5, 2 p.m. Talk: "Bernd Heinrich: The Naturalist as Artist," with Bill Lipke, art history. Free to UVM affiliates and museum members. Fleming Museum.

Dec. 7, 12 p.m. Concert: University Catamount Singers, directed by David Neiweem, music. Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 2 Cherry Street, Burlington.

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Veteran Reporter Says 2004 Election Full of Deception

During his 43-year career as a political journalist, Adam Clymer can't remember an election campaign more dishonest than 2004. Not in terms of voting fraud, but in the way candidates and groups that supported them told half-truths and lies about each other.

Although the former Washington correspondent for the *New York Times* wouldn't go as far as to put the campaign in the category of the 1824 election in which Andrew Jackson was accused of being a cannibal and a bigamist (the latter turned out to be true), he did tell his Nov. 29 audience at the Fleming Museum that the distortion of facts was the worst he'd seen since he started covering presidential elections in the 1960s.

"I'm appalled at the scope of this year's lies, but I'm not shocked," Clymer, now visiting scholar and Washington director at the Annenberg Center for Public Policy at the University of Pennsylvania, later told a political science class.

After giving other examples of campaign half-truths and questionable innuendo from the past, Clymer showed how George W. Bush and John Kerry turned the age-old practice of stretching a truth into an art form. In the past, lies at least "had some vague credibility," he said. He quoted Tennyson from 1864 to illustrate his point: "A lie that is a half truth is ever the blackest of lies... a lie which is all a lie may be met and fought outright, but a lie which is part a truth is a harder matter to fight."

Fast forward to 2004, and what Clymer calls the transformation of "Tennyson's half to Karl Rove's faint smidgen," and you get the following examples: "Democrats may or may not really be in favor of raising taxes, but they have opposed Bush's tax cuts, so maybe it's a good guess that Kerry wants to raise taxes," or, from the Democratic side, "a lot of jobs have gone overseas since George Bush became president and he hasn't stopped it, so maybe he's in favor of it."

Clymer, who spent 26 years at the *New York Times* after working for the *Baltimore Sun* as a bureau chief in Moscow and New Delhi, said the most damaging ads came from "Swift Boat Veterans for Truth," claiming Kerry lied to get a Silver Star, Bronze Star and three Purple Hearts in Vietnam.

Clymer said he blames the media for not scrutinizing the group and its ads, which weren't major advertising buys but received a lot of attention after being repeatedly played under the

Film Producer Offers Sneak Peek for Scholarships

Jon Kilik '78 didn't get to be a top producer in the movie business without a finely developed ability to multi-task. Take his most recent project, director Oliver Stone's epic *Alexander*. Among other things, Kilik's role as producer involved planning for locations from Malta to Morocco and juggling the logistics of thousands of extras, not to mention the peculiar challenge posed when some of those extras happen to be elephants. Compared to that, an evening with dueling preview screenings – one in Vermont, one in Manhattan – was an easy day at the office.

Kilik, who has returned to campus often for guest lectures and to deliver UVM's 2003 commencement speech, was back in town on Nov. 22 for a special preview screening of *Alexander*, a sold-out fundraiser for UVM's General Scholarship Fund. Before the projector rolled at the Majestic 10 Theater in Williston (Kilik's cue to make a dash for the airport and preview No. 2 at the Lincoln Center), the alumnus spoke about his college days and his newest film.

"I've tried to choose films for their social significance in contemporary life," Kilik said. Those connections might be easy for viewers to spot in a film such as *Do the Right Thing*, the first of many collaborations between Kilik and director Spike Lee. They take a bit more work on a historical epic such as *Alexander*, though Kilik noted that some parallels to present-day Iraq are clear.

Earlier in the day, Kilik spoke to students in Billings North Lounge. He told the group that his desire to "demystify the process" of movie making is a central reason he returns often to speak in front of classes at his alma mater. The core message from the producer, who likes his sports metaphors almost as much as a court-side seat with Spike at the Garden, is get in the game. If you want to write screenplays, start writing screenplays. If you want to direct, get a digital camera and get busy. "You've just got to do it and trust that it will work out," Kilik told the students in Billings. Of his own success, Kilik says it's all about "being stubborn mixed with passion and a little bit of talent."

The sneak preview – which raised approximately \$6,000 for the general scholarship fund – came together through the efforts of the Alumni Vermont Regional Board, Carol and Barry Stone '56, and Rindy Keiser '81, in particular.

Vitamins Might Help Some Chemotherapy Patients, Study Finds

heading of 'news' by cable news.

"As my friend David Broder wrote in the *Washington Post*, 'Time was when any outfit such as Swift Boat Veterans for Truth that came around peddling an ad with implausible charges would have run into a hard-nosed reporter whose first questions – before he or she ran with the story – would have been: 'Who the hell are you? What's your angle? What's your proof.'"

Clymer said campaign dishonesty was not just an advertising problem, but something that both candidates practiced on the stump. Kerry accused Bush of "socking seniors with a 17 percent increase in Medicare" when in fact the president never imposed the change as implied. "It was an inevitable consequence of statute, some of it in the Medicare reform law Bush favored and Kerry opposed," Clymer said.

Clymer added that on Iraq, Bush claimed that Kerry said he "prefers the stability of a dictatorship to the hope and security of democracy." What Kerry actually said was that "Saddam Hussein was a brutal dictator who deserves his own special place in hell. But that was not in and of itself, a reason to go to war. The satisfaction we have taken in his downfall does not hide this fact: We have traded a dictator for a chaos that has left Americans less secure."

Clymer's personal favorite and most offensive dishonest campaign ad: a mailing by the Republican National Committee to voters in West Virginia and Arkansas claiming the Bible would be banned if liberals won in November. The flyers show a bible with the word "banned" across it, alongside a picture of a man on his knees placing a ring on the hand of another man.

To close, Clymer offered a possible solution to the dishonesty dilemma.

"I think of it as a faith-based solution. Consider all the talk about the renewed importance of moral issues in American politics. Perhaps we can hope, no, pray that as a result the new article of faith in political conduct will be the Ninth Commandment. The one that goes: Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor."

As the popularity of nutritional supplements soars, health-conscious consumers are using them to address an increasing number of complaints. Dr. Richard Branda, professor of medicine, and his research team looked at a segment of this market – patients undergoing chemotherapy for the treatment of breast cancer – to find out if nutritional supplements had any positive or negative effects.

In a study published in the September 2004 issue of the journal *Cancer*, Branda and colleagues examined the results of a questionnaire that asked how 49 women with breast cancer used supplements. More than 70 percent of the women were taking at least one of 165 varieties of supplements during chemotherapy. This type of therapy typically causes a decrease in neutrophils – white blood cells that help the body fight infection. The women who took multivitamins or vitamin E alone experienced a less-than-average decrease in neutrophils, whereas those who took the B vitamin folate had a larger-than-average reduction in neutrophils.

According to Branda, consumers with and without cancer need to be cautious. The chemicals in nutritional supplements have an impact on how a person's body processes drugs, including chemotherapy, as well as on how the cells in the body work. To better clarify which supplements are beneficial, Branda recommends further research.

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Campus Events Focus on AIDS Awareness

World AIDS Day, an event dedicated to raising awareness of HIV and AIDS, improving care for the infected, and fighting discrimination, is Dec. 1. The campus is honoring the day and AIDS Awareness Week with a variety of events through Dec. 3.

On-campus events include:

- *Angels in America* screening, Dec. 1 at 5 p.m. in 003 Kalkin. The HBO film of Tony Kushner's award-winning play stars Al Pacino, Meryl Streep and Emma Thompson.
- HIV/AIDS workshop: Dec. 1 at 8 p.m. in 003 Kalkin. At an intermission during the four-hour screening, VT CARES will conduct an interactive workshop providing updates and information on HIV/AIDS, safer sex, and local activism. The group will provide refreshments, red ribbons, condoms and other safer sex materials.
- AIDS Memorial Quilt display and speaker: Dec. 2-3 at 7-9 p.m. in the Billings Great Hall. On Dec. 2, Peter Kurth, a columnist at *Seven Days*, will speak at 7:30 p.m.
- Distribution of red ribbons, condoms, stickers and information on HIV/AIDS: through Dec. 3, all day at various campus locations.
- "A Day Without Art": Dec. 1, all day. Art pieces in main locations on campus were covered to symbolize a moment of cultural silence, not only to encourage our community to remember those who have died from AIDS-related illnesses but also to recommit ourselves to shared communication.

Information: [AIDS Awareness](#) or 656-0505

UVM Archivist to Discuss Historical Novel
Music Sponsors Handel 'Sing-In'

The Department of Music is inviting the community to a "Handel's Messiah Sing-In" on Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m. in Ira Allen Chapel. Dawn Willis, music director of the Burlington women's chorus "Bella Voce," will lead the singers/audience through the first part of the composition and the beloved hallelujah chorus.

The University of Vermont Concert Choir and soloists will provide musical leadership, with Professor David Neiweem playing the chapel organ. All are invited; bring a score and your voice.

Handel "sing-ins" have been popular for years, not only in Burlington, but throughout the country. "The Messiah" is an 18th century oratorio by the German composer Georg Friderick Handel. It combines text from the Old and New Testaments to tell the story of the birth of Jesus. It is one of the most popular choral works in history because of its dramatic intensity and high level of musical attainment.

Poet Jan Beatty to Read Dec. 2

The Department of English will present a reading by poet Jan Beatty on Dec. 2 at 4:30 p.m. in room 101 of Fleming Museum.

Beatty's most recent collection of poems, *Boneshaker*, was published in 2002 by the University of Pittsburgh Press. Her first collection, *Mad River*, won the Agnes Lynch Starrett Prize from the University of Pittsburgh Press, and was published in 1995.

Beatty is the recipient of the Creative Achievement Award in Literature from the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust for the year 2000, presented by Robert Pinsky. For the past ten years, Beatty has hosted and produced "Prosody,"

Jeffrey Marshall, the university archivist, will appear Dec. 2 at 7:30 p.m. in Memorial Lounge, Waterman Building, to discuss his novel-in-progress. The title of his Center for Research on Vermont seminar is “Truth or Dare: A Historian Writes Fiction.”

Marshall's forthcoming historical novel will draw on the transcript of an 1830 inquest into the death of a young Burlington woman who recently had an abortion. Marshall's talk will ask how a historian should confront a topic of great historical and contemporary relevance when the evidence is, at best, obscure? Can fiction come closer to the truth than more widely accepted historical methodologies?

Marshall is the curator of the Wilbur Collection of Vermontiana at UVM's Bailey/Howe Library and editor of *A War of the People: Vermont Civil War Letters*.

Winterfest Celebrates Global Holiday Traditions

Winterfest, the university community's annual celebration of winter observances and holidays from around the globe, will take place on Dec. 3 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Billings Student Center.

The free, public event will showcase traditions including Bajram, Chinese spring festival, Christmas, Diwali, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, Ramadan, Dia De Las Velitas and winter solstice. The entertainment will include a performance by Jenni Johnson, Indian dance and the Bosnian Children's Dance Group.

Information: [Winterfest](#)

a public radio show featuring the work of local and national writers. She also teaches writing at Carlow College.

Vocal Ensemble Shares Sounds of a Medieval Holiday

Lionheart, an ensemble of six male singers, will perform a holiday-themed Lane Series concert on Dec. 3 at 7:30 p.m. at the UVM Recital Hall.

The production, “Tydings Trew,” recreates the world of a medieval village cloister at Christmas. Lionheart is best known for its interpretation of medieval and renaissance unaccompanied music, with Gregorian chant as the keystone. The group began an ongoing collaboration with another vocal ensemble, Anonymous 4, in 1998, creating a combined sound that the *New York Times* called “mystical... resonant with haunting beauty.”

Information, tickets: [Lane Series](#)

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December 1, 2004

Awards and Honors

Dr. **Richard Colletti**, professor and associate chair of pediatrics, received a \$300,000 grant from the American Board of Pediatrics and the North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition to create, organize and direct PIBDNet – the Pediatric Inflammatory Bowel Disease Network for Research and Improvement. PIBDNet is a collaborative network that allows pediatric gastroenterologists to work together towards dramatically reducing the illness. The program is part of a larger national effort, Quality in Pediatric Subspecialty Care, which aims to transform how care is delivered to children under the care of pediatric subspecialists. QPSC is a formal collaboration between the American Board of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. PIBDNet is the first such project and will serve as a model.

The **UVM Environmental Council** and the Burlington Legacy Project will receive recognition on Dec. 2 with a Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence and Pollution Prevention for the report "Tracking UVM: Environmental Report Card 1990-2000." In a Nov. 4 letter, Elizabeth "Wibs" McLain, Secretary of the Vermont Agency for Natural Resources, describes the report as going "far to achieve its goals of examining trends in environmental impacts resulting from the daily operation of the University of Vermont campus. ...Your efforts to protect Vermont's environment and reduce resource consumption are an inspiration." The report is online at [Tracking UVM](#).

Jonathan Huener, associate professor of history, will receive the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies/Orbis Books Prize for Polish studies for the best book in any discipline on any aspect of Polish affairs, for his book *Auschwitz, Poland, and the Politics of Commemoration, 1945-1979*, published by the Ohio University Press. He will receive the award on Dec. 6 in Boston at the group's national convention.

Publications and Presentations

Sylvie Doublé, associate professor of microbiology and molecular genetics, published a review titled "Infidelity Out in the Open" in the October 2004 issue of the journal *Structure*.

Joel Shapiro, director of the Employee Assistance Program, presented a paper at the 2004 International Association of Employee Assistance Professionals in Education. The paper, "Demonstrating Effectiveness of University EAPS" was co-presented with the EAP directors of Duke University and the University of Michigan. The paper has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Employee Assistance and Workplace Behavioral Health*. It presents the results of a two-year study at UVM and seven other universities, benchmarking client satisfaction results and cost savings based on the resulting decreased economic costs of illness in the workplace due to EAP services.

Many faculty presented at the 7th Annual Breast Cancer Conference at the Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center in Burlington on Nov. 12, including **Berta Geller**, research professor of family medicine and radiology; Dr. **Seth Harlow**, associate professor of surgery; Dr. **Ruth Heimann**, associate professor of radiology; **Russell Hovey**, assistant professor of animal sciences; Dr. **David Krag**, S.D. Ireland Professor of Surgical Oncology; Dr. **Richard Lovett**, associate professor of radiology; Dr. **Hyman Muss**, professor of medicine; Dr. **Johannes "Chris" Nunnink**, clinical associate professor of medicine; Dr. **Julie Olin**, assistant professor of medicine; Dr. **Patricia O'Brien**, clinical assistant professor of medicine; Dr. **Allan Ramsay**, professor of family medicine; **Ann Ramsay**, adjunct assistant professor of nursing; Dr.

Deborah Rubin, associate professor of radiology; Dr. **Mary Stanley**, clinical assistant professor of surgery; Dr. **Christian Thomas**, clinical assistant professor of medicine; Dr. **Marie Wood**, associate professor of medicine; and Dr. **Paul Unger**, clinical associate professor of medicine.

David Scrase and **Wolfgang Mieder**, both professors of German and Russian, edited the book *Language, Poetry, and Memory. Reflections on National Socialism*. It contains five essays that were originally presented as annual lectures commemorating Harry H. Kahn, former professor and chairperson of the Department of German and Russian. The essays deal with the proverbial rhetoric in Victor Klemperer's diaries, Jewish and entitled representations of the Holocaust, exile literature, the language of the Holocaust and German Jewish poetry after Auschwitz. Anybody on campus wishing to receive a free copy of this volume should contact Janet Sobieski at 6-3430.

Wolfgang Mieder is also the author of a book titled *"Wein, Weib und Gesang": Zum angeblichen Luther-Spruch in Kunst, Musik, Literature, Medien und Karikaturen*. The study traces the German origin and history of the proverb "Who does not love wine, woman and song, remains a fool his whole life long," surveying also its appearance in the Anglo-American world. There are various chapters treat the proverb in art, music, poetry, prose, aphorisms, advertisements, caricatures, and cartoons. The book contains over forty illustrations ranging from the 16th century to the present day and debunks the alleged claim that Martin Luther originated the Epicurean wisdom of the proverb.

Thomas Noordewier, associate professor of business administration, had an article, "Do Riskier Borrowers Borrow More?" published in *Real Estate Economics*. The article was written in collaboration with **David Harrison**, associate professor of business administration and Abdullah Yavas of Pennsylvania State University.

In Memoriam

Susan Whitebook, professor emerita of French, passed away on Nov. 21. A memorial service in her honor will be held on Dec. 8 at 4:00 p.m. in John Dewey Lounge, Old Mill. All are invited to attend.

November 17, 2004

Awards and Honors

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

Bridget Turner Kelly, assistant professor of Integrated Professional Studies, received the Peggy R. Williams Emerging Professional Award from Vermont Women in Higher Education. **Joan Smith**, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, was posthumously awarded the group's Sister Elizabeth Candon Distinguished Service Award, presented to a woman who has shown evidence of promoting and working toward the advancement of women in higher education and involvement at the national, regional, state and local levels in related activities.

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

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Thoughtful Teaching

By Heidi Hill

Article published Dec 01, 2004



Susan Dinitz works with first-year student Tyler Mitchell on a draft of his paper. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

While critiquing research papers on the Monday morning after Thanksgiving break, Sue Dinitz tells her English 1 students a hard truth – the weakest parts of their papers are the parts they don't understand themselves and fixing sentences won't fix the problems. They need to do more thinking.

Dinitz's writing lesson is loud and clear in contrast to her demeanor, which is

subtle and unassuming. Before class begins she circles the room connecting with students on topics from sharing writing to how they are feeling after being sick. One student wants to single-space his final paper so it won't take up too much room in the class's collaborative book, but Dinitz tells him to use double spacing because the writing is worth it.

It is this blending of personal and professional that makes Dinitz effective, so much so that the senior lecturer of English has been named the 2004 Vermont Professor of the Year, an honor bestowed by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council of Advancement and Support of Education in recognition of dedication to teaching, commitment to students and innovative instructional methods.

The national award might look good on her resume (along with the university's Kroepsch-Maurice Excellence in Teaching Award in 1995), but Dinitz isn't sitting back and basking in the glory. "When students sit down to write, they're not going to care if I was a good teacher last year," she says. "You have to continually be figuring out people, what's going on with them, what they're ready to learn at this time in their life."

Since 1980, Dinitz has been teaching at UVM and trying to figure her students out. Sure, the job isn't new, but the challenge is always there and that's what drives her. She tries to be a good listener and a good learner, the same qualities she expects of her students. In recent years, Dinitz has also taken on the official title of mentor to students in Project STAY, UVM's federally funded learning support program. The role comes naturally to Dinitz – she's already a writing tutor and generous advisor. And knowing her Project STAY students outside of the classroom facilitates communication inside English 1, she says.

Writing to discover

As a writing instructor and director of UVM's Writing Center, Dinitz believes writing is a tool for thinking.

"I was always intimidated by writing classes that presented writing as something divorced from ideas," Dinitz says of her days as a student.

Dinitz encourages writers to be conscious of their ideas, but not to the point that they feel they must start off with something brilliant or be doomed. The

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Training Parents for Change

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goal of the initial writing, according to Dinitz, is to discover one's idea.

"Often when you're first attracted to an idea, you don't really understand what your insight is going to be," she says. "We spend a lot of time finding focus within the material rather than starting with something and forcing it into a mold."

Understanding the idea and where the writer wants to take it is at the heart of Dinitz's teaching. "In writing classes it's easy to be doing lots of things, but not all students are aware of what they're doing and why and can connect it to other places," she says.

The handout that Dinitz gives her English 1 students at the end of her Nov. 29 class details the requirements for their final portfolio. One section that could easily have a subhead reading "accountability," instead falls under the category of new work. Students are asked to discuss what they've learned about writing during the semester and what they've learned about themselves as writers.

Dinitz explains that in order to get an "A" in the class students must have completed assignments and their final drafts must be A quality. The system is set up for growth, and if the writing doesn't exhibit development, Dinitz doesn't look solely to the student, she looks to herself. The accountability comes full circle, even for the teacher of the year.

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Training Parents for Change

By Cheryl Dorschner

Article published Dec 01, 2004

No one could possibly be a stronger advocate for a child with special needs or disabilities than the child's parent. But that can't fix deeper problems in laws or schools.

"Individual child advocacy isn't enough; we need system change – teacher training and adapting curriculum to children's needs, meshing the 'Individuals With Disabilities Education Act' and 'No Child Left Behind,' for starters," says Madeleine Will, director of the National Policy Center at the National Down Syndrome Society.

More and more diverse parents will take the reins to change special education policy across America within five years, if UVM's Katharine (Katie) Furney has her way.

In January, Furney and Susan Hasazi, both faculty in the College of Education, along with Paula Goldberg of the Minnesota-based Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights (PACER) Center, will begin a five-year, nearly \$900,000 project funded by the United States Department of Education's Office of Special Education.

Setting a place for parents

The new project, "Parents as Collaborative Leaders: Improving Outcomes for Children with Disabilities," is associated with UVM's [National Institute on Leadership, Disability and Students Placed at Risk](#), and will operate in California, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina and Utah.

Parents have long been strong advocates for their own children with disabilities and many have gone on to play significant roles in developing special-education policy. It was individuals and parent organizations, using the civil rights movement as a model, that led the passage of the landmark "Education of All Handicapped Children's Act" of 1975, according to Furney.

"The landscape has changed since 1975 when the system was federal-government driven," says Will, whose organization will work closely with the UVM project. "Over the past 25 years we're seeing more flexibility delegated to states and localities. Parents and parent groups need to be more organized."

"Certainly, parents are involved in a number of ways – it's required by law – and there are many instances of individual parent leaders and policy makers," Furney says, "but it's our feeling that there are many barriers. Often parents don't feel qualified, or don't feel welcome at the table."

"They haven't had an opportunity to gain the necessary professional skills to get involved with the schools, agencies and political processes – not just coming to the table – but in a professional way on an equal footing," Hasazi adds. This is particularly a problem for parents from low income and diverse cultural backgrounds, or people whose first language is not English.

Special expertise

After tallying the results of surveys of 1000 parents nationwide and focus groups in two states, the researchers will develop and then teach courses to 36 parents in the six states. Curriculum materials on CD-ROM, DVD and online will help this far-flung group and future participants receive the same information. After a year of training, these parents will participate in internships where they can hone their new skills.

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"We see parents as experts and want to help them to operate beyond their own children's needs at the policy and legislative levels," says Furney.

This might involve serving on a state-level special education advisory council, helping to write specific legislation, serving on a policy evaluation team or joining a board associated with no child left behind.

Will can already imagine how her organization would use these parent interns. "This is hypothetical, but we have a great need to have individuals support our state... affiliates, so we might have a parent help us with a certain state's political action plan with in-person visits and conference calls because so much of the success involves face-to-face contact, trust and follow-up," she says.

To increase its clout, the UVM-PACER team garnered the involvement of key national organizations like the Learning Disabilities Association of America and National Coalition for Parent Involvement, to name just two. Their role in the project includes nominating the parents to receive the leadership courses and often acting as sites for internships. The model ensures collaboration and development of a network of parent leaders, parent centers and organizations.

The beauty of the project, Hasazi says, is that "we think the skills are generalizable across a wide context. We can replicate key elements ... so the 36 parent leaders will ultimately train 720 parents of children with disabilities."

"This is a big country, so much needs to be done and the issues are different in California than they are in Ohio," cautions Will. "But 700 people can make a powerful difference."

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Multi-Million Dollar Gift Will Create the Dudley H. Davis Center

By University Communications

Article published Nov 29, 2004



Jeffrey Lowe Davis (left), Charles Davis (center) and Daniel Fogel celebrate the family's naming gift of the Dudley H. Davis Center. Dudley Davis, a legendary Burlington banker, passed away shortly after the event and was not able to attend. (Photo: Sabin Gratz)

Friends and family of Dudley H. Davis '43, a UVM alumnus and legendary Burlington banker, gathered in Memorial Lounge on Nov. 25 to celebrate his life and an important part of his – and the university's – legacy: the new Dudley H. Davis Center, a \$70 million focal point of student life on campus scheduled for construction next spring.

The project, which trustees approved in September, is the largest and most ambitious building project in the university's history and key to the success of the

institution's 10-year growth and pursuit of academic excellence strategy. At the Nov. 25 event, the Davis family announced their commitment to raise \$7 million for the project through a multi-million dollar family gift and a major challenge to friends and corporations. To date, the effort has raised \$6 million.

Davis died four days after the event, which he was unable to attend. He was 83.

The \$7 million gift in his honor represents about half of the private funds necessary for the project.

"We are very grateful for the generosity and vision of Chuck and Marna Davis and the entire Davis family and friends of Dudley Davis, who together are making it possible to designate the University of Vermont's new student union as the Dudley H. Davis Center," said President Daniel Mark Fogel. "The Davis Center will transform the fabric of the campus community and will greatly enrich the intellectual and cultural life of the surrounding community. We are deeply moved that this facility, a keystone of the vision for UVM, will be named in honor of Dudley Davis, an alumnus in whom the university takes great pride for what he has done in his life and work to build community resources throughout Vermont and especially in the greater Burlington area."

Charles Davis '72, one of Dudley Davis's sons, said that the announcement marked a "very happy and proud day" for his family and, especially, his father, who enjoyed a "long and close relationship" with the university.

Making a mark on Vermont

Dudley Davis was a former president and chief executive officer of The Merchants Bank, a local institution founded in Burlington in 1849. Challenging projects like Wake Robin, the Sheraton Hotel, and others were achieved in large part by Davis' ability to get things done. His vision provided start-up funding for notable Vermont companies including IDX, Ben and Jerry's and others. He was a leader in the development of affordable housing throughout

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No one could possibly be a stronger advocate for a child with special needs or disabilities than the child's parent. But that can't fix deeper problems in laws or schools. A new effort within the College of Education and Social Services aims to help parents collaborate and lead.

Urban Waters

In Vermont, rural streams and rivers have lots of friends. But what about the polluted urban waters of Chittenden County? Don't they need boosters? Jurij Homziak, extension assistant professor, and his colleagues are hoping to change the lonely plight of these damaged watersheds.

the state of Vermont and through his leadership at the Merchants Bank provided countless Vermonters the opportunity to own their own home or business.

"Dudley throughout his career was a leader in the state of Vermont, especially in Chittenden County. When non-profits needed help or had a good project in mind, Dudley was always in the forefront helping to guide them. When there was a new doctor in town who needed assistance in his practice, Dudley was again there to help. Almost all successful businesses in Chittenden County have Dudley's imprint on them. Dudley always had a special feel for new and young entrepreneurs starting a new venture. Bankers and leaders in the community have always looked up to Dudley. He is a very special person," said Ray Pecor, chairman/director of the Lake Champlain Transportation Co.

Richard Tarrant, a founder and chairman of IDX Systems Corporation, echoed Pecor's sentiment, pointing out that Davis's approach to banking went far beyond just providing funds.

"Dudley not only helped us get started at IDX with our first loan, but he was the kind of banker who was informal enough so that you could pick up the phone at any time for advice or input, which was very valuable for a couple of young guys starting a company who really had no experience," Tarrant said.

Davis spent all of his 83 years in Chittenden County with the exception of serving during World War II in the Pacific and Japan. His involvement in the community and with the university has been life-long. He is especially interested in young people. His work with the Merchants Bank scholarship fund assisted thousands of Vermont students with financial aid for many years. (Tom Cullins, a principal at Truex Cullins & Partners and one of the lead architects on the student center project, said at the event that Davis was instrumental in loaning the money he needed to attend architecture school.) His connection with UVM is deep and lifelong as well. He, his wife Phiddy (class of '45) and three of their four children attended the University of Vermont.

At one point, the family lived on Colchester Avenue close to the old UVM football bleachers, with Davis's children running around the yard to a soundtrack of cheers from the field. At the time, Dudley Davis volunteered at many sporting events, Charles Davis recalled.

"We went to virtually every event on campus," said Davis, who went on to graduate from UVM. "We all had phenomenal learning experiences at UVM and we respect and appreciate enormously what the university has done for our family and community."

Center of the future

Although the project has been discussed for several years, the idea gained traction during the interim presidency of Edwin Colodny, then began to move in February 2003 when Daniel Fogel made it the bricks-and-mortar centerpiece of his ten-year vision for the university. "But none of the additions to the physical campus have had the transformative power of the University of Vermont Commons, a vital student union that seethes with activity from early morning to late night," Fogel wrote in describing his vision of the campus in 2012. "It is more than a physical change. The Commons has rewoven the fabric of community at UVM in ways that all agree are highly positive."

Designers knew the location of the new student center would be critical – envisioned as a figurative crossroads of campus, it had to be a literal one, as well. Their solution promises to dramatically improve two aesthetic negatives of the UVM campus – the culvert-like pedestrian tunnel under Main Street, which nonetheless is an area of extremely heavy student traffic, and the university's lack of a "front door" on Main Street, which is the main travel corridor into Burlington. The center will stretch along the street, roughly in the area between Morrill and Terrill halls. The pedestrian tunnel will be reworked and integrated into the project, creating a strong link between the residential and main campus that will draw thousands of students into the building during their daily travels.

A campus life survey has driven the building's program for design, addressing the areas that students said were lacking: dining venues, a campus pub/bistro, performance spaces, study lounges, conference/meeting room, student organization and support areas, an expanded bookstore, and other retail

outlets. The space is divided into two main building components: a student union composed of four building levels and a performing arts theater on two levels with seating for approximately 600. In keeping with UVM's strong environmental ethic, the project team is striving for LEED certification of the building, incorporating a variety of practices that meet the strictest standards of environmental design.

Pending permitting, the university will break ground on the project next spring with a projected opening in fall 2007.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Befriending Urban Waters

By Jon Reidel

Article published Dec 01, 2004

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From classroom demonstrations to creekbed restorations, Extension watershed expert Jurij Homziak is working to protect Vermont's urban waters. (Photo courtesy of Jurij Homziak)

In Vermont, rural streams and rivers have lots of friends. There are the Friends of the Mad River, Friends of the Winooski River, Friends of the Ompompanoosuc River and many, many more.

But what about the polluted urban waters of Chittenden County? Don't they need boosters?

Jurij Homziak, Extension assistant professor, and his colleagues are hoping to change the lonely

plight of these damaged watersheds by spearheading a number of low-cost, community-based efforts to promote a sense of responsibility among community members to protect water quality.

"They're orphan streams," says Homziak, executive director of the Lake Champlain Sea Grant program and coastal and watersheds specialist. "Nobody looks at them. Most people driving down Shelburne Road don't even know they exist."

The Community-Based Watershed Stewardship and Education project for urban streams was designed to include and educate various key players in communities affected by damaged watersheds. A community-driven model was created based on the restoration plan of the Englesby Brook watershed in Burlington.

"We get the schools, the city, neighborhood associations, businesses and institutional owners involved," says Homziak. "They're all partners in this and should participate in the planning of the restoration process, and in the action needed to improve water quality. It's their brook and their neighborhood. All of these components are part of a comprehensive neighborhood, urban stream education and stewardship effort."

Watershed education

Engaging students from local schools to help carry out the restoration project has been crucial to the effort. "Every stream and water body in Chittenden County is impaired, yet when you look at the curriculum in the schools there is no continuing educational program that focuses on watersheds, water quality and the urban environment," Homziak says.

Through the use of an EPA Healthy Communities grant, secured by the UVM Watershed Alliance, a partnership of Extension, Lake Champlain Sea Grant, and the Rubenstein School of the Environment and Natural Resources, Homziak has been able to introduce water-related examples into the curriculum of local schools.

Don Fox at Edmunds Middle School, for example, incorporated four water-

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Student Center Gift

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specific modules into his science curriculum. Homziak and colleagues helped develop the watershed-related material, which includes a field trip to Englesby Brook, to fit into the teacher's existing curriculum. At the brook, students saw classroom lessons acted out on the landscape: how water shapes the land, how materials can be suspended in liquid and more. They also witnessed how human activities change the way that water works in the landscape.

"They're getting a visual grasp of what their neighborhood looks like – the urban areas, the developed spots, the industrial areas, the vacant lots, the residential areas – and then we can talk to them about the likely sources of pollutants and how to control the runoff. It's all part of this comprehensive neighborhood-based stewardship and education program that we're really trying to engage the kids in," Homziak says.

Students at Champlain Elementary School in Burlington's South End created a watershed map by taking photographs of intersections that cross a watershed boundary. They presented the map and a slide show at a public presentation to show members of the community where watershed boundaries are located and the effects of various impacts like new construction and animal waste.

"People accept the fact that if you educate children about water quality and watershed education not only do you make them better environmentally literate citizens, they in turn transmit some of the information at home. It would make the value of watershed education that much more powerful."

Addressing issues

Rural communities can adopt the community-based urban stream model to their specific needs. Extension became involved in water improvement projects in Colchester, St. Albans and Burlington after conducting needs assessment surveys of residents to identify potential areas of pollution, likely sources and ways that residents eliminate them.

"This way the scarce resources available for education are not squandered by doing a blanket education program that tries to hit everything," says Homziak. "Once we determine the area of focus in a community through surveys, we give them to the town and watershed associations, who put their resources together to apply these education programs."

Ideally each community would eventually be able to sustain the model itself. With that goal in mind, Homziak worked with a teacher at Bellows Free Academy to train a class of science students to administer the assessment survey. Extension is promoting other self-sustaining water-related programs through programs like Lake Education and Action, a coordinated effort of UMaine Cooperative Extension, UNH Extension and UVM/Lake Champlain Sea Grant to share lake education programs across state lines. LEAP facilitates the transfer of program information between the states. The idea is for Extension to serve as an expert catalyst to launch ongoing efforts from a variety of partners.

"We don't have the resources to sustain [some programs], but if we train students to do the surveys and provide them guidance on how to sample water and provide support in analyzing the data, it can work," Homziak says. "[This is] Extension's way of leveraging the unique skills we have to get the community involved and stay involved in the long term. The result will be improved water quality."

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