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Green UVM Gets Report Card



Fueling change: Scott Gordon, Kirk Jones and John Orr (right) with Orr's bio-diesel Mercedes. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

The University of Vermont is considered a leader in the greening trend of universities, but a recent campus audit delivered some bad news along with the good.

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'Tis the Season to Graduate

Approximately 206 students will celebrate their commencement this month. For their families, the milestone likely will be their best holiday gift, especially for those whose newly minted alum saved them a semester's tuition.

Sense of Space

Satellite imagery is now sharp enough to see the lines on a tennis court. The possibilities this emerging technology offers for natural resource studies are astounding, say researchers at the recently upgraded Spatial Analysis Laboratory.

THE WEEK IN VIEW

Dec. 4-7 all day Bookstore Sale: Books, clothing, supplies at 10-30 percent discounts. Dec. 7 hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Dec. 5 12-5 p.m. Staff Council Holiday Bazaar, Memorial Lounge, Waterman. 656-4493

Dec. 7-8 10 a.m., 2 p.m., 6 p.m. Children's Play: *The Toys Take Over Christmas*, Royall Tyler Theatre. 656-2094

Dec. 7 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Design TASC: High school students compete in contest to raise the flag. Patrick Gym tennis facility. 656-8748

Dec. 8 2 p.m. Film: *Sweet Sugar Rage*, from Jamaica. Fleming Museum. 656-0750

Dec. 14 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. December Graduates Reception, Billings Student Center Great Hall, North Lounge.

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Knowledge theorist Hilary Kornblith and his colleagues in the philosophy department were recently highly rated in a reputational survey. (Photo: Sally McCay)

Philosophy Gets Top Ranking

Nuts about Nietzsche, mad for metaphysics or disturbed by the ethical dilemmas of modern medicine? Consider taking a few courses in philosophy. The university's philosophy department is consistently ranked by as one of the six best programs in the country among those that do not offer graduate studies, according to the *Philosophical Gourmet Report*.

Widely considered the most reliable source of information on the quality of a philosophy program, the *Philosophical Gourmet Report* is a reputational survey completed by philosophers who rate colleges and university philosophy departments (especially graduate programs) based on the quality and reputation of faculty.

"If Vermont had an M.A. program, it would clearly be among the top 10, at least, in the country," said Brian Leiter, editor of the *Philosophical Gourmet Report*, director of the law and philosophy program at the University of Texas-Austin and visiting professor of philosophy at University College, London. Other top philosophy programs that do not offer master's or doctoral degrees are Dartmouth, Amherst College, California Institute of Technology, Reed College and Wellesley.

Brian McLaughlin, professor of philosophy at Rutgers University, ranked UVM even higher. After his recent program review of UVM's philosophy department, McLaughlin said he considers UVM and the California Institute of Technology to have the country's two best philosophy departments among those without M.A. or Ph.D. programs. McLaughlin's opinion was based on criteria including the quality and

Fogel Announces Task Force to Improve Policing

President Daniel Mark Fogel used a public forum on Dec. 2 to spell out a series of actions designed to improve campus policing after a November incident in which a student of color was briefly detained by an officer after being misidentified as a crime suspect.

"We are very, very determined to take this as an occasion to move forward in constructive and action-oriented ways," Fogel said.

During the forum, Fogel repeatedly emphasized that the university has worked hard to understand the precise details incident, hold individuals accountable for it and change procedures to minimize the chances of something similar ever happening again.

To provide outside perspective and expertise on this effort, Fogel has assembled a national team of law-enforcement professionals to review the incident and consult with campus police on training and procedures. The group comprises Ronald Davis of the Police Assessment Resource Center in Los Angeles; Susan Riseling, chief of the Police Department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison; Oliver Clark, director of the University of Illinois Division of Public Safety; and Brian Searles, former South Burlington Police chief and head of the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council.

The group is charged with reviewing the university's response to the incident and assessing campus police training and procedures. They will focus on staff preparedness for major incidents, operational control issues and several aspects of suspect identification and detention, including communication techniques in cases where race may be a factor.

Fogel also used the forum as an opportunity to reaffirm his – and the university's – long-standing commitment to diversity among faculty, students and staff. He acknowledged that the incident raised questions about the campus climate for people of color, and said his administration would strive to create a "critical mass" that would increase the "comfort level" for diverse groups on campus. Fogel added that he would announce a new administrative structure for accomplishing this sometime around the new year. He emphasized that the plan would be action-oriented and have concrete timetables and goals.

Immediately before the policing forum, Fogel met with graduate and undergraduate students for an hour as part of his series of regular student

diversity of philosophy curricula, the department's contribution to the university's overall mission and the quality of faculty.

"Both of these reputational surveys take into consideration where faculty pursued their own graduate studies and their contributions to their fields," said Derk Pereboom, UVM's chair of philosophy. At UVM, students in both introductory and advanced philosophy courses are taught by full-time faculty. "Students also learn in small classes, where discussion and talking with professors outside the classroom are encouraged," Pereboom said.

The department comprises respected scholars and contributors in a wide variety of research fields. Don Loeb, who also holds a law degree, teaches courses in meta-ethical issues and writes philosophically informed briefs for U.S. Supreme Court decisions. Arthur Kuflik examines contemporary medical ethics, such as stem cell research. William Mann's international reputation is based on his contributions to the philosophy of religion in several encyclopedias and leading industry journals. Other faculty interests include Chinese philosophy, free will and determinism, animal knowledge, metaphysics, epistemology and rationality.

The study of philosophy, with its focus on developing writing and critical thinking skills, is considered an excellent major for students preparing for a career in law or journalism. Successful philosophy alumni include *New York Times* journalist Eric Lipton '88, who won a Pulitzer Prize in 1992 for his *Hartford Courant* articles on NASA's Hubble space telescope; Vermont Secretary of State Deb Markowitz '81; and Emily Fleschner '91, who received a master's degree from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and now represents the Democratic Leadership Council in Massachusetts. Other students have gone on to top graduate programs.

The *Philosophical Gourmet Report* is published by Blackwell Publishing and available online at [Philosophical Gourmet](#). For more information on UVM's Department of Philosophy, see [Philosophy](#)

Grad Student Wins Thesis Award

A national consumer group awarded Rashmi Narsana, who recently completed her master's degree in community development and applied economics and now works as a researcher in the Center for Rural Studies, with its 2003 prize for the best graduate thesis.

Her work used data from the Center for Rural Studies "Vermonters" poll to explain the factors that influence consumers to search for information about genetically modified products, and the impact getting that information has on their purchasing behavior.

"Approximately 70 percent of processed foods are genetically modified, even though consumers demonstrate very little awareness of this," explains Narsana, who does not advocate for or against the foods. "But people are looking for

meetings. "I have a million issues," he exhorted the two dozen students circled around two large tables, "what are your issues?"

Major topics of discussion included the development of an honors college, requests for more university support and recognition of student activities, particularly UVM Rescue and the inter-residence association, and strategies for making undergraduate courses more demanding, especially in the first and second years. Fogel's next student coffee is scheduled for Jan. 29, 2003.

Student Survey Finds Widespread Pesticide Use in Vermont Schools

Seventy percent of Vermont schools are using pesticides, and six percent of those are notifying parents of the practice, according to a study conducted by UVM students in conjunction with the Vermont Public Interest Research Group.

Students taking a class titled "Environment and Human Health" taught by Patti O'Brien and Paul Schaberg of the School of Natural Resources conducted the research. O'Brien reported that 235 schools responded to the study.

The resulting report, "Reading, Writing and Raid: Pest Control at Vermont Schools," was lauded in a Nov. 21 press conference attended by state officials and representatives from the offices of Rep. Bernie Sanders and Sen. James Jeffords offices.

"We think it's important for our students to participate in this study," said O'Brien. "We hope this information will be used to expand our understanding of appropriate and inappropriate use of pesticides in and around schools."

Speaking from the audience, Ann Hazelrigg, lecturer of plant and soil science, commended the VPIRG and the students. "This is great work. UVM recently received a grant specifically to study integrated pest management [an alternative to pesticides], and we hope to have a Website up on it within the month."

Services Set for Emeritus Professor Armin Grams

A life of energy, accomplishment and a sustained commitment to teaching and learning ended on Nov. 20, when Armin Grams, professor emeritus of human development studies, died following cardiac arrest at age 78.

Memorial services have been set for Dec. 14 at 2 p.m. at St. Paul's Cathedral in Burlington.

Grams came to the University of Vermont in 1970 to establish the Human Development and Family Studies Program. His early work was in the area of parent-child relationships but his focus soon switched to human relationships and sexuality. In the later years of his career, his interest turned to gerontology.

information in a variety of sources, particularly the Internet, and getting information not necessarily preventing them from buying these products."

Narsana thinks her work may have some implications for policy makers looking for the best methods to disseminate information about genetically modified foods. While her research doesn't address the details of these policy questions, her analysis of the Vermont survey leaves her convinced of a simple point. "People want and need this information," she says.

Narsana will accept her award and present her work next April, at the annual meeting of the American Council on Consumer Interests in Atlanta. The group says Narsana's paper made a "substantive contribution to the academic literature in consumer science." In winning the award, Narsana joins two other CDAE alumni winners, Lee Shirey and Christine Torre.

He developed and taught several courses on gerontology and he was instrumental in establishing both the UVM Center on Aging and a gerontology certificate program. He also served in many national and international organizations in the area of aging.

Grams retired from UVM in 1990. Following retirement, he remained active in the professional community, both in Vermont and nationally, taught courses in gerontology, continued his study of German and remained active in choral groups. He was on his way to a choral practice when he suffered his heart attack.

theview

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

pho 802.656.2005
fax 802.656.3203

theview@uvm.edu

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Stanford Researcher to Keynote Neuroscience Forum

Researchers from the College of Medicine are sponsoring a free public Neuroscience Forum on Dec. 7, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Radisson Hotel in Burlington.

The forum will begin with a keynote presentation by Dr. William Mobley, neurology professor and chair at Stanford University School of Medicine. Mobley also is co-director of the Stanford Brain Research Institute. His research focuses on understanding neurodegenerative disorders, such as Alzheimer's disease and Down syndrome.

Dr. Mobley's talk will be followed by a poster session, during which UVM neuroscience research projects will be displayed and discussed. An "Alternative Careers in Science" workshop featuring a panel of experts representing careers in the intellectual property/science law, journalism, government agency and private sector science fields will take place 1:15 - 4 p.m.

Information: Kelly Sadler, 656-2230, or kelly.sadler@uvm.edu

Fleming's Holiday Sale

The Fleming Museum will hold its annual holiday sale on Dec. 5 and 6, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Dec. 7 and 8, 1 to 5 p.m. A minimum 20 percent discount will be offered on all purchases, and free gift-wrapping will be available.

The Museum Store carries merchandise related to the museum's collections and exhibitions and include mugs, posters, cards, hand-blown glass, jewelry, greeting cards from the Museum of Modern Art and from Doug Nap, Katherine Monstream and other Vermont artists, art kits, books and CDs.

Winterfest to Celebrate Ethnic, Religious Holidays

Free food, music and numerous dance programs will fill the agenda for this year's Winterfest celebration on Dec. 5 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Billings Student Center.

The program will include a traditional Dinka (Sudan) dance; a sari demonstration and Indian dance, a Bosnian children's dance, the Top Cats, Jenni Johnson and the Jazz Junketeers, and a Hannukah candle-lighting ceremony.

Information: Alicia Lewis, 656-8833 or clewis@zoo.uvm.edu

Business is Music to their Ears

Kathleen Liang, associate professor of community development and applied economics, and students in the agricultural and resource entrepreneurship program will present a conference, "The Sound of The Entrepreneurial Soul," Dec. 10, 3:30-7 p.m., in 003 Kalkin Hall.

Students will share their business plans, the culmination of their semester's study, and Liang will demonstrate an innovative musical program in teaching entrepreneurship. Refreshments will be served.

Information: Kathleen Liang, 656-0754.

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*Dec. 4, 2002 – Jan. 15, 2003***Awards and Honors**

Bogac Ergene, assistant professor of history, was awarded the Malcolm Kerr Dissertation prize for the best dissertation on a Middle East topic in the humanities at the recent Middle East Studies Association annual meeting in Washington. The Kerr prize, named after noted Middle East scholar Malcolm Kerr, who was killed while serving as the president of the American University of Beirut, is the most prestigious prize that a young scholar in the Middle East studies field can win.

On Dec. 9, **Kenneth Mann**, professor and chair of biochemistry, will deliver and receive the American Society of Hematology's 2002 E. Donnell Thomas Lecture and Prize at the organization's 44th annual meeting in Philadelphia. Named for Nobel Prize laureate and past ASH president Dr. E. Donnell Thomas, the award was established in 1992 to recognize pioneering research achievement in hematology.

Margaret Kennedy, a clinical instructor of medicine, has been named a finalist for the Jeremiah and Rose Stampler Research Award for New Investigators from the American Heart Association in recognition of her paper titled "Predictors of Worsening Ankle-Arm Index in the Elderly: The Cardiovascular Health Study."

The Vermont Chapter of the American College of Physicians-American Society of Internal Medicine has announced that Dr. **Charles Houston**, professor emeritus of medicine, has been named a Master of the ACP-ASIM – the highest title that the national organization grants. Masters are a small group of highly distinguished physicians, selected from among those who have already been accepted as Fellows of the ACP-ASIM. Masters must have achieved recognition in medicine by exhibiting pre-eminence in practice or medical research, holding positions of high honor, or making significant contributions to medical science or the art of medicine. Dr. Houston, whose career has focused on high-altitude physiology and medicine, is only the fourth internist in the state to achieve this title.

Dr. **F. John Gennari**, Robert F. and Genevieve B. Patrick Professor of Medicine, received the Vermont Chapter of the American College of Physicians-American Society of Internal Medicine's Laureate Award. Dr. Gennari, who specializes in nephrology, was the director of the nephrology unit at Fletcher Allen Health Care from 1979 until 2002.

George W. Albee, professor emeritus of psychology, has been named a Visiting Fellow of the British Psychological Society. A former president of the American Psychological Association, Albee will give a series of lectures on the prevention of mental disorders at several universities in the United Kingdom in March.

Two recent graduates of UVM's geography program have received national recognition from distinguished societies. **Jennifer Holland**, '02, was selected among a highly competitive pool of nationally drawn applicants as one of 10 interns with the National Geographic Society in Washington, D.C. The internship program is open to senior undergraduate geography students. Holland worked at the National Geographic headquarters, where she did archival research throughout the Spring 2002 semester. She assisted with background research for and the installation of several exhibits, including a particularly exciting project display on the field of Egyptology. **Kristen Miller**, '02, was awarded the Robert G. Buzzard Undergraduate Scholarship by Gamma Theta Upsilon, the international Geographical Honor Society, at the annual meeting of the National Council for Geographic Education. This prestigious and competitive scholarship is awarded annually to students who excel academically

and contribute substantively to the discipline of geography, particularly through service to GTU. Miller served as chapter secretary at UVM during the 2001-2002 academic year. She currently is completing her first year in the geography master's degree program at the University of Georgia.

At the annual fall meeting of the Vermont Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Dr. **Wendy Davis**, professor and chair of pediatrics, received the 2002 Green Mountain Pediatric Award. This award – the only one issued by the Vermont AAP – honors the outstanding pediatrician of the year.

Publications and Presentations

Professor **Wolfgang Mieder**, chairperson of the Department of German and Russian, traveled to London to deliver the Katherine Briggs Memorial Lecture at the University of London, England, in November 2002. The British Folklore Society every year honors an international scholar by this invitation to deliver the endowed lecture on a topic in folklore. Prof. Mieder's lecture was titled " 'Good Fences Make Good Neighbors': History and Significance of an Ambiguous Proverb."

Kevin McKenna, professor of German and Russian, was interviewed by the public radio program "The World." He discussed the 40th anniversary of the publication of *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*. McKenna is currently writing a book on Solzhenitsyn's use of proverbs.

Toni Kaeding, adjunct assistant professor of nursing and director of the Freeman Nurse Scholars Program, gave a presentation on the "Rural Nurse Leadership Project" to the membership of the American Hospital Association on Nov. 13 via conference call.

Ken Gross, professor of mathematics and education, was an invited speaker at the professional development day for Chicago public school teachers from the city's magnet schools, held at the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry on Nov. 8. He was also an invited speaker at the Northeast Regional Meeting of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics in Boston on Nov. 12.

Thomas McFadden, associate professor of animal sciences, and Lyndon Carew, professor of animal science, were awarded \$100,000 grants each from the USDA for development of teaching programs. McFadden's project involves a collaborative effort with faculty at the University of Illinois to develop a course in mammary development, milk secretion and mastitis, which will be delivered via CD and interactive web-based instruction. Carew is developing a complete on-line, 3-credit, Web-based introductory course in the fundamentals of nutrition. This will be a complete revision of the computer program that Carew has used on campus since 1981, the first such computerized college-level nutrition course ever developed.

Bill Eddy, professor emeritus of environmental studies, has published *The Other Side of the World*, a book of "essays and stories on mind and nature." The book is available at www.mind-nature.com.

Chyi-lyi (Kathleen) Liang, assistant professor of community development and applied economics, participated in the FastTrac Facilitator Training Program in Kansas City Nov. 12-13.

Nov. 20 - Dec. 3, 2002

Awards and Honors

Chris Stevenson, professor emeritus of education, received the National Middle School Association's highest honor, the John H. Lounsbury Award, at its annual conference in Portland, Ore. on Nov. 2. "He hears the voice of students and can communicate their needs and concerns to teachers and administrators," said Lounsbury in presenting the award. "In Vermont he is known as 'Mr. Middle School.'" Stevenson taught at UVM for 20 years. He is a founder of the Vermont Association of Middle Level Educators and author of six books.

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Green UVM Gets Report Card

By Jeff Wakefield



Fueling change: Scott Gordon, Kirk Jones and John Orr (right) with Orr's bio-diesel Mercedes. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

outside on Handy Court – a navy blue, 1985 diesel Mercedes 300. It's not that Orr covets power symbols from the greed-is-good decade; it's the diesel engine he's interested in.

With the help of Scott Gordon, an assistant professor of chemistry, Orr and several friends have been working all semester to launch a bio-diesel business that they hope will supply fuel for UVM's fleet of bio-diesel buses and, eventually, the community at large.

Being green

Orr is one of a growing number of students, faculty and staff at UVM – and across the country – interested in turning colleges and universities into showcases of green technology. The National Wildlife Federation's Campus Ecology Project, launched a decade ago, has attracted about 100 new members a year for the past few years. In a survey of 819 colleges and universities NWF conducted in 2001, 80 percent indicated that they have some greening initiatives underway, with half the projects having started in the last five years.

UVM is a leader in the national trend; several of its demonstration projects, including the bio-diesel buses and the solar array on the roof of the Cage Central Heating Plant, across from the bookstore, are featured prominently on the National Wildlife Federation Web site at [NWF 1](#) and [NWF 2](#).

Two new projects solidify the university's position at the forefront of the campus green-up trend – a just completed inventory of UVM's greenhouse gas emissions comparing emissions in 1990 and 2000 and a wide-ranging assessment, called "Tracking UVM," of the university's environmental impact across a spectrum of categories.

While demonstration projects like the bio-diesel car and buses are important undertakings – because they model what's possible – it's just as important to take on the tough assignment of measuring environmental impacts, according to Stephanie Kaza, associate professor of natural resources and co-chair of UVM's Environmental Council. Only a few colleges and universities have had the gumption to put together comprehensive report cards like UVM's, Kaza says.

"You have to do these kinds of baseline audits," no matter what their public relations impact, she says, "to see what's really happening. Then you can begin

The living room of John Orr's off-campus apartment is crowded with the apparatus of an environmentalist. A natural waste water treatment system called a living machine perks away quietly in one corner, its plumes of vegetation streaming into the middle of the room. A large solar panel rests against a wall.

But the junior civil engineering major's pride and joy is parked

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Satellite imagery is now sharp enough to see the lines on a tennis court. The possibilities this emerging technology offers for natural resource studies are astounding, say researchers at the recently upgraded Spatial Analysis Laboratory.

to actually transform the institution.”

Data driving change

The university's grades are mixed, an outcome that was surprising in some ways but ultimately constructive, says Gioia Thompson, coordinator of the Environmental Council, who managed data collection for both reports and wrote "Tracking UVM."

Thanks to efficient new technologies and cleaner sources of electricity, greenhouse gas emissions at UVM increased only 2 percent over the '90s, a relatively positive outcome compared with other institutions and communities. Burlington, for example, saw a more than 20 percent increase over the period.

But the "Tracking UVM" report showed UVM's environmental footprint has grown heavier in a number of areas, including some where the university takes pride in its eco-friendly programs. Despite a model recycling program, for example, the university is producing more trash today than it did in 1996. And electricity use has grown significantly since 1990 – by 23 percent – in spite of an intensive efforts to install efficient technologies.

"The increase in electricity use was quite amazing to us," Thompson says. "I'm not sure we could have done any better with our conservation and efficiency programs."

What the assessment shows, she says, is that "the university is not an island. We operate within the culture and standard of living of the U.S. We're part of a national trend in increased electricity use and trash generation."

UVM fared better in other areas: water use decreased 15 percent, despite an increase in building space, radioactive waste decreased 81 percent; energy sources became cleaner; and storm water flows were decreased at least 40 percent by treatment ponds.

The real significance of the audits is in the data-driven direction they provide for the institution. In the bad old days, Thompson remembers a purchasing manager whose big idea for greening up UVM was to buy refillable highlighters. "Without data, you're at risk of putting your energy in the wrong places," she says.

The audit concludes with a series of several dozen recommendations for students, faculty and staff, from building "green residence halls" to formalizing UVM's environmental commitment by "creating a campus-wide environmental policy and plan."

According to research conducted by the Environmental Council, UVM students expect a green campus. Count John Orr among them. Orr transferred here from Carnegie Mellon University because of the UVM's reputation as an environmental leader. "There's a momentum and a movement" at in Vermont "that wasn't in Pittsburgh," he says. "I'm glad I'm here."

Get Inventory and Tracking Information on Web

Click on [Climate Change](#) to view the greenhouse gas inventory. The inventory was partly funded with a grant from Clean Air, Cool Planet, a leading nonprofit organization dedicated to finding and promoting solutions to global warming.

"Tracking UVM" will be available online and in print in January. For details, contact Gioia Thompson at 656-3803 or gioia.thompson@uvm.edu. The report was funded with a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency and was developed in collaboration with three local organizations: the Burlington Legacy Project; the Green Mountain Institute for Environmental Democracy; and the Institute for Sustainable Communities.

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'Tis the Season to Graduate

By Lee Griffin



In December 2001, mid-year graduates and their families celebrated the academic milestone at a reception in Billings. More than 200 students will complete requirements this December. (Photo: Rob Evans)

More than 200 students will bid farewell to UVM in December. For reasons that include switches in majors, time off from school and – the rarest of all – accelerated completion of degree requirements, approximately 206 undergraduate and graduate students will celebrate their commencement this month. For their families, the milestone likely will be their best holiday gift, especially for those whose newly minted alum saved them a semester's tuition.

Curious about their backstories and their plans, *the view* recently interviewed six of these winter breakaways and came away impressed with the personalized paths each one shaped in her or his years at UVM.

Erin Socha, of Warren, R.I., did it in three-and-a-half years by stockpiling advanced placement credits and taking summer courses. She started university life as a biology major. "Everyone was thinking 'pre-med', but it was not for me," she says. "In my sophomore year, I took on English and loved that." She also decided on a minor in business and now is thinking about returning here for her MBA, eventually melding her two loves and working in publishing.

Her outstanding extracurricular experience, she says, was helping to build a house for Habitat for Humanity under the auspices of UVM's TREK program. "It was an amazing experience," she says. Her favorite class was Sociology 19, Race Relations in the U.S., with Valerie Moore.

Anthony Egizi, a St. Johnsbury Academy graduate, was a reluctant college entry, who now says, "I'm sorry to leave the university." He's thankful to his brother, 14 years older, who "told me to go."

Egizi, majored in geography and loves "making topographical maps." The certified scuba diver hopes one day to do underwater GIS mapping. But that will follow graduate school in a year or two and a first career as a forester in a far-west state. In the interim, he'll go to work with his dad, St. J's "town butcher."

College has been both trial and epiphany for Egizi. Although his GPA rose for "nine straight semesters," the first year was rough, he says. He left two dorms because of he wasn't comfortable with the environments there. In his sophomore year, he settled into a substance-free residence in Harris, "made great friends," and life at UVM began to click.

No one was more surprised by his choice of school club than Egizi. Now a passionate College Republican who met Dick Cheney and Jim Douglas this year,

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[Green Report Card](#)

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Egizi explains. "I used to disown politics, but since I've been at UVM, exposed to liberals and progressives, I made a choice. ... I like controversy and discussion, not arguments. I have many good friends who are 100 percent opposite my ideas, but we have good conversations and stay friends. I'm passionate but not a radical. I see the opposite point of view."

In addition to his College Republican and Forestry Club memberships, and despite working 20 hours a week at Simpson's store and the Marche ("I do everything – pizzas, smoothies, vegan cooking, even mopping and cleaning"), Egizi played intramural basketball, soccer and volleyball.

Two professors stand out for him: He calls John Shane, in forestry, and Glen Elder, in geography "great teachers." He also has had a great advisor, he says, in Beverley Wemple, of geography.

Heather Hawkes' small, slim frame belies her professed love of food and "passion for cooking." She confesses to eating "everything – burgers and pizza" included. But, she aims for balance, befitting of a double major in dietetics and nutrition and food sciences. The Woodstock, Vt. native also "loves to run," plays club field hockey and intramurals in broomball and soccer.

Hawkes also has compassion. In February, she will travel with the First Congregational Church in Burlington to Haiti, where she'll help build a hostel on the grounds of the Albert Schweitzer Hospital. She has applied to the hospital to stay on for two more months to do volunteer nutrition work.

Following that work, Hawkes will apply for a year's dietetic internship at a Boston hospital to become a certified dietician. She hopes to return to Vermont and continue to work with children in nutrition education. She has worked with children at Edmunds grade school, where she designed and taught a 12-week program, and last summer she worked at a camp as nutritionist for 6-18 year olds. Her advisor and mentor in these projects has been Rachel Johnson, acting dean of CALS.

Ernie Powers, of Middleborough, Mass., came to UVM from St. Michael's College, under an articulation agreement between the two; he will graduate with a B.A. from SMC and a B.S. in mechanical engineering from UVM.

A member of the Dean's Council of Students, Powers says, "I'm happy with what I've done here, happy I came." He also feels confident in his abilities and is hoping to land a job in industrial design work with Husky, where he recently interviewed. He's found that "employers are demanding" more and more preparation, and he wants to see UVM improve its engineering facilities and resources.

Powers took fall 2000 off and then transferred to the University of Colorado at Boulder. "I needed a break," he says, but, he found he preferred UVM's program and smaller classes. He's forever grateful to Joan Jordan, assistant to the dean for student affairs, who "got me reinstated with no red tape, at the last minute before 2001 fall classes began." Jordan also helped him get financial aid.

If Powers has a hero, it's his advisor, Gerry Francis, engineering professor emeritus. "He's really good. He also tutored me," he says. When a family problem came up, Francis helped. "He told me to go home," Powers says. He also helped me figure out my credits and saved me an extra semester." He also points to help from Tim Raymond, computer services manager in engineering and "a great guy." In engineering, Powers says, "you're part of a family."

Rebecca "Becky" Hemingway, born and raised in Burlington., transferred to UVM in fall 1999 from New Hampshire College to major in psychology and minor in sociology. "UVM is a community where you can be yourself and work on your goals with the help of amazing groups of individuals, both faculty and staff," Hemingway has found.

After "a couple weeks' rest," Hemingway says she's hoping to return to Alabama, where she worked last summer in the Alternative Summer Break program, and then "find a job that hopefully is worthwhile. I am more interested in finding a job that when I wake up in the morning, I am actually looking forward to going, rather than dreading it. The money, in all honesty, is my second concern."

The alternative program convinced her that her main goal would be to “make a difference in the lives of individuals who are held back because of poverty, racism or lack of resources.” Two professors with whom she studied this fall especially have inspired her plans – Valerie Moore and Kathy Fox, assistant and associate professors of sociology, respectively. Moore, Hemingway says, “taught me to look at the greater scope of things and to not take things at face value, but rather to keep searching for answers and solutions.” Fox, she adds, “changed my views regarding the juvenile justice system.”

The Alternative Summer Break program, which focused on the Civil Rights movement, was a catalyst in her life and will shape her future, she says. “Overall, with the help of this experience, professors and the friends I have made, my experience here at UVM has been one of enlightenment, personal growth and a new level of interest for people who are impoverished or held back from succeeding due to various circumstances, etc. ...This is my real passion.”

Tara Tavares, of Portsmouth, R.I., is a grad with a plan. “Immediately, I will find work in Burlington to help pay off some loans – or at least make some sort of dent in them,” she says. “Then, I hope to move to New York City, go to graduate school for clinical psychology and eventually open a clinical practice for children.”

Tavares, who will graduate this month with a psychology major and French minor, says her favorite teachers – psychology professors Susan Crockenberg and John Burchard – “got me interested in psychological work with children, both in research and out in the community.”

Tavares says, although she “struggled here in the first two years, and it took me some time to find my place. Once I found it, however, I rally began to enjoy myself.”

The “December grads” will celebrate with family, friends and professors at a reception for them on Dec. 14. Of the six students polled by *the view*, five are definitely planning to return in May, families in tow, for Commencement.

theview

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

pho 802.656.2005
fax 802.656.3203

theview@uvm.edu

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UVM HOMEPAGE

A Sense of Space

By Cheryl Dorschner



Graduate student Jarlath O'Neil-Dunne shows off a GIS map. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

High-resolution satellite imagery, available commercially at modest prices and easily manipulated and analyzed with stock PCs, can home in on the landscape precisely enough to see the lines on a tennis court.

The possibilities this emerging technology offers for analyzing land use, wildlife habitat and natural resources are astounding, say faculty

and staff at the School of Natural Resources's recently renovated and upgraded [Spatial Analysis Laboratory](#).

"Knowing what's out there is half the game," says Jarlath O'Neil-Dunne, a graduate student in natural resources and a member of a team at the recently renovated and upgraded Spatial Analysis Laboratory.

Clicking around the state

Geographic information systems technology lets researchers soar from Smuggler's Notch to Plattsburgh and back in seconds, as they demonstrated to intrigued visitors during a Nov. 20 open house. Visitors to the lab that day got into the action as well, swooping and diving over three-dimensional renderings of Camel's Hump, Lake Champlain and Bolton Valley. A software adjustment turned the realistic Green Mountain satellite maps into a colorful patchwork denoting brown agricultural land, green forests and navy blue rivers.

The mapping software is only one of the state-of-the-art offerings at the lab at 220 and 223 Aiken. The room features a bevy of new computer stations, an out-sized color printer for huge maps and a special server. "The file size is so large for GIS, we have our own server," says Ernie Buford, who calls himself "a bird biologist who manages all the computers in the lab." Technically he's a research specialist and systems administrator.

Buford also is responsible for one of the lab's most distinctive features – parqueting into the center of the new honey-colored linoleum flooring is a perfect map of the Green Mountain State. Buford points to the matching curves at the entrance: Camel's Hump. He created the flooring cut-outs from accurate maps using the lab's technology. Much of the renovation, in fact, was done with this kind of hands-on, budget-defying verve.

The lab boasts hardware and software for remote sensing and GIS applications as well as dynamic simulation modeling used for research and several courses in forestry, natural resources, geology, geography and other disciplines. Students and scientists apply these GIS techniques, spatial analysis and system modeling to understand environmental issues and natural resources planning. The methods shed light on such varied issues as global climate change and shifts in wildlife diversity.

"A number of us have tried to build GIS into our research," says David Capen, a

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[Green Report Card](#)

The University of Vermont is considered a leader in the greening trend of universities, but a recent campus audit delivered some bad news along with the good.

['Tis the Season to Graduate](#)

Approximately 206 students will celebrate their commencement this month. For their families, the milestone likely will be their best holiday gift, especially for those whose newly minted alum saved them a semester's tuition.

recently retired professor of natural resources with a specialty in avian ecology.

A few examples: Austin Troy, assistant professor of natural resources, is using satellite data dating back to the 1970s to map land-use change in Vermont. This "change detection" work is helping him develop models that will accurately predict future development. Gerry Livingston, a research associate professor, uses the lab to detect algae in Lake Champlain and map sites of algal blooms. The satellite data – more detailed and more readily analyzed than ever before – is driving dozens of other projects for the eight faculty and research staff attached to the lab. "We're not all computer geeks yet, but we're slowly getting there," says O'Neil-Dunne.

GIS exegesis

Long located in a house on Colchester Avenue, the facility was the first ARC Info GIS university lab in the country. The lab moved to Aiken in 1982, but it didn't become a research lab until 1990, recalls Capen, who has been with UVM for more than 25 years.

Buford explains that the technology began "with military applications trying to tell camouflage from vegetation; that led the way for commercial applications and now the use for ecology."

"One of the neat things about satellite imagery is that we can easily see land cover because we're looking at near infrared and short-wave infrared light," says Troy, who joined the team last year to pursue his work on land use and sprawl.

"This whole GIS approach using satellites to map the entire state would've been impossible only a few years ago," says O'Neil-Dunne as he showed visitors his current work studying riparian buffers for agricultural run-off. "While the government had land monitor satellites up there since the 1970s, the technology only recently became available [to those outside of the government]." This new availability of images combined with more powerful and easy-to-use computers in the 1990s let the technology take off.

The ever-increasing power and flexibility of GIS, the lab team agrees, is making certain types of studies easier and more accurate than ever before. Capen is the principal investigator for a number of projects in the lab. Among them is the National Gap Analysis project, which ran through the 1990s and used GIS to compare areas of wildlife biodiversity with conservation lands. "We found that conserved lands took place mostly in the mountains for recreation and aesthetics and that those high elevations were not very productive for wildlife biodiversity," Capen says. That study led to the ongoing Vermont Biodiversity Program.

The VBP prioritized and mapped conservation areas that protected the most diverse landscapes, natural communities and species in Vermont. Then they compared those with land-use plans. "We have this incredible database and are working with the Chittenden County Planning Commission on its goals," says Capen. "We want to identify natural resource parcels to see if we can meet the targets [of protecting the most diverse landscapes] with those parcels. Then we'll look at other parcels and identify the best combinations that would meet conservation goals."

This constant focus on the field, as well as accessibility to student input on products is part of what makes the UVM facility stand out. Similar technology exists at most other major universities. It's the can-do, field-focused, human-scale *sensibility* here that is different.

Buford puts it this way: "Many other people in this field are computer-model people. But we're not just computer nerds, we're field scientists."