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## [Audio Slideshow: Into Africa](#)



UVM student Julie Meurice saw this open door as a symbol for Senegalese generosity and hospitality, or *teranga*, a value Meurice hopes to hold on to in her life back home. (Photo: Julia Meurice)

In January of 2008, then-sophomore Julia Meurice spent winter break in Senegal as part of the Living Routes program, "Sustainable Development in Ecovillages." See photos from her trip, and listen to her talk about putting sustainability into practice through micro-lending.

[FULL STORY ►](#)

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## [World Wide Weight Loss](#)

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December 10, 2008

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### THE WEEK IN VIEW

*Dec. 11. 2 p.m.*  
Environmental Forum Meeting. Chittenden Bank Room, Davis Center. [Information.](#)

*Dec. 12. 11 a.m.*  
Religion Department Lecture: "The Morality of Mourning: Ritual Weeping in Secular Turkey." Kabir Tambar, University of Chicago. Williams Family Room, Davis Center. Information: 656-3080.

*Dec. 13. 10 a.m.* "The Politics of Food." Ron Krupp, author, gardener, and Vermont Public Radio commentator. UVM Horticultural Research Center, 65 Green Mountain Drive, Burlington. \$5-10 suggested donation. [Information,](#) registration: 864-3073.

*Dec. 14. 7 p.m.* Student Choreography Showcase. \$5 suggested donation. Music Building Recital Hall. Information: 656-3040.

[INTERview: John P. Burke](#)

[Film Series Celebrates Human Rights for Women](#)

[Juckett Series Hosts Cancer Prevention Expert](#)

[Ron Krupp on the Politics of Food](#)

[Music and Humanities Series Launches with Opera Favorites](#)

[New York, New York, Big City of Trees](#)

[Peace, Love and Professors](#)

[Martin Luther King III to Highlight UVM's 2009 Holiday Commemoration](#)

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By Amanda Waite

Article published December 10, 2008

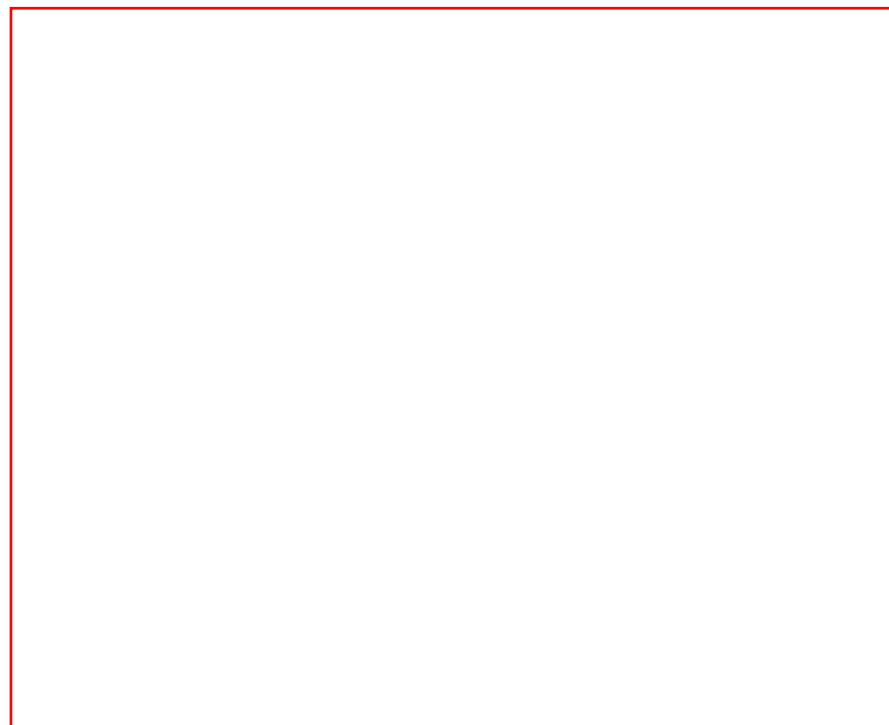


UVM student Julie Meurice saw this open door as a symbol for Senegalese generosity and hospitality, or *teranga*, a value Meurice hopes to hold on to in her life back home. (Photo: Julia Meurice)

In January of 2008, then-sophomore Julia Meurice spent winter break in Senegal as part of the Living Routes program, "Sustainable Development in Ecovillages." The experience, she said, was life changing. Back at UVM, she's designing her own major around issues of ecology, resource management,

and intercultural communication and has hopes to pursue a career working with people — instead of in a lab.

See photos from her trip, and listen to her talk about putting sustainability into practice through micro-lending.



See the photography of fellow Rubenstein School student Forest Donaj-



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Keys from his agricultural journey to Haiti and the Dominican Republic on Thursday, Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. in Allen House's Multicultural Art Gallery.



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## World Wide Weight Loss

*UVM takes its research-based Vtrim program online*

By Lee Ann Cox

Article published December 10, 2008



Vtrim founder Jean Harvey-Berino, professor and chair of nutrition and food sciences, won a prestigious James Beard Foundation book award for *The EatingWell Diet*, based on 16 years of obesity research. (Photo: Ken Burris for EatingWell Magazine)

Fourth-grade teacher Kathy Lara has tried her share of weight-loss programs. There is no shortage of diets that will change, for a time, the number on your scale. But what works, she's found, is a plan that will change your life, and one that focuses on fitting how you live, not just how

you fit in your jeans.

That's why UVM's Vtrim online, an expert-facilitated behavioral program backed up by extensive university research, appealed to Lara.

"I don't have extra time outside the house to make another meeting," she says, "so online was very tempting for me and it's been very effective."

Lara is in one of the first online cohorts that launched in September and have been ongoing through the fall. The Web-based version is structured the same as the in-person classes that have been offered publicly at the university since 2004 and includes, in fact, a scheduled, participatory weekly meeting, but it can be logged into from nearly anywhere. The text is archived, but few want to miss it. According to research by Beth Gold, now director of Vtrim's corporate programming, the camaraderie and interactive support is as strong within online groups as they are in person.

"It's really fun to be part of that class," Lara concurs. "It's a motivational factor in the program. There's a constant flow of information and support."

Lurking in on a live class one evening (with permission from the



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group), the appeal was clear. First, on logging in, you get an encouraging update — at that point they had collectively lost 79 pounds and exercised the equivalent of walking 1640.1 miles. The exchange between participants and the facilitator was caring and humorous; tips were offered, confessions and frustrations shared, encouragement key.

### **Mind matters**

But it's more than a feel-good session. Vtrim is based on behavior modification, considered by academics to be the gold standard for weight-loss for roughly four decades. It just has been out of reach until now for those who don't happen to live near a research university with such a program. But in 2005 the National Institutes of Health provided \$3.5 million to help UVM researchers develop the Internet program and test its effectiveness, while also comparing it to commercial Web-based weight loss programs.

A study published in the journal *Obesity* in January 2007 demonstrated that the program was effective on the Web. It now achieves results identical to the in-person version. Vtrim participants lose an average of 23 pounds over the course of the six-month program, achieving double and triple the results of commercial programs like Weight Watchers and eDiets.

Each weekly meeting is built around behavioral lessons that build on each other as the 24-week program progresses. Topics include subjects like food label reading and savvy shopping, stress management and relapse prevention.

"It's about understanding what cues you to eat," says program founder Jean Harvey-Berino, professor and chair of nutrition and food sciences. "It's about self monitoring, controlling your environment, problem solving. But you're practicing with a crutch (in the facilitator), someone who can help you figure out where you went wrong."

A factor that differentiates Vtrim from other online weight loss-programs is that it is not self-paced where good intentions — like going to the gym — are all too easy to let slip. There are expectations and accountability; a daily journal tracking eating and exercise is evaluated weekly, with helpful comments, by the facilitator (who must be a dietitian or related expert and complete 45 hours of rigorous training).

And yet it's not a diet, no menus or special foods. Think calories in-calories out, with goals for each that are set with help when you enroll. There is privacy and also flexibility — Lara likes that she can either do her online journaling late at night, or, if she's not sure how many calories and fat grams she's had before dinner, she can put in her day's intake and find out what she can still eat without

going over her goal.

"I'm completely empowered by choosing my own food," Lara says. "It's helping me look at my behaviors that don't enrich my healthy lifestyle and giving me options on how to change it. I did it to find more discipline. It's about becoming more intentional."

One of the often mentioned benefits of this program, though participants tend to be, but aren't always, women, is that as new food shopping, cooking, and exercise habits become established it's often a shared family experience. Rather than mom forlornly drinking her diet shake while the ice cream is dished up, everyone is eating better; partners are losing weight too and joining in on walks. The healthful also becomes communal.

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### Taking off

UVM is offering a \$50 discount to anyone who enrolls in any class before the end of 2008. [Register now](#) and enter discount code: FRIEND1108. The next online Vtrim class starts January 6.

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## Trustees Grapple with Latest Cuts

By University Communications

*Article published December 10, 2008*

Trustees and administrative leaders spent a grueling two days at the December 4-5 Board of Trustees meeting grappling with a financial crisis made more challenging by newly announced budget cuts from the state for the current fiscal year and the news that still further rescissions were likely to come.

UVM began the week with a \$22 million budget shortfall. By Friday's meeting, after the news from the state, the gap had grown to an expected \$28 million. The state-related cuts will fall more heavily on the College of Medicine and on Extension Services, who by formula, each receive 25 percent of the state appropriation.

President Daniel Mark Fogel reiterated in his opening remarks that the budget cuts will impact personnel at the university, but stressed that the university will make every effort to place affected employees in new positions at the university and will make counseling available.

He also said that cuts would be strategic, focused on preserving or even enhancing academic quality. "Our first priority remains academic quality, including the quality of the student experience; the maintenance of high-quality, diverse enrollment; and the quality of faculty research, scholarship, and creative activity," he said.

After discussions focused on how the university will put a new internal control apparatus in place – trustees asked to see reporting lines and an organization chart for the internal auditing system the university is proposing – and much back and forth on the specifics of the budget crisis, trustee Deborah McAneny put things in context.

"I want to remind you that everyone has this problem," she said. "Everyone is sitting in rooms like this one looking at a balance sheet that has wildly contracted. There are no problems here we can't solve. But we have to cut expenses before we get better. We are doing all the right things here."

### Budget, Finance and Investment Committee

Committee members continued their conversation about the current economic conditions facing the university and explored ways of closing the \$28 million dollar budget gap. One of the issues focused

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on the proposed six percent increase in tuition for 2009-2010 and the university's commitment to continuing its high level of financial aid. It was brought to the attention of committee members that 29 percent of in-state students paid no tuition while at the same time the percentage of Vermonters who paid a full fare decreased from 33 percent three years ago to 22 percent in 2009.

Richard Cate, interim vice president for finance and administration, explained why moving to a Matched Repayment method would result in a significant reduction in payments to treasury operations over the next several years, but results in higher, but essentially level payments in later years. In September, trustees granted authority for the university to use up to \$5 million of the \$24.2 million treasury balance to help balance the 2009 budget. The administration plans to use some of the reserves over the next few years.

Committee members voted to re-affirm its debt-ratio policy (6 percent) and viability ratio (1.0) — UVM's two key financial ratios to set internal limits and provide a framework to evaluate both debt capacity and debt affordability. They were informed that the university had recently exceeded the viability ratio, but that the administration was working to move it back into compliance in the near future. They also passed a six percent increase in summer tuition to match what is expected to be the same level of increase for the upcoming regular academic year.

#### **Educational Policy and Institutional Resources Committee**

The committee heard updates from Provost John Hughes; Chris Lucier, vice president for enrollment management; Marc Diamond, vice president for development and alumni relations; and others. Action items included the unanimous support for a certificate of graduate study in complex systems and also approved a minor in public communications.

Building on discussion of differential tuition at the previous committee meeting, Hughes described progress on considering how UVM might implement charging different tuition rates across schools and colleges. The practice is widely used in higher education with tuition levels adjusted according to the actual cost of educating students and, in some cases, the earning potential of graduates in the field. Hughes said differential tuition would be considered for the 2010-2011 academic year at the earliest and would likely start as a pilot program.

Hughes also presented slides illustrating an analysis of UVM academic departments broken down by numbers of students taught in service courses and numbers of majors. The information will help guide decisions as university administrators consider levels for minimum class sizes.

Lucier was cautiously optimistic as he shared current application numbers for the class of 2013. Applications are up 11 percent overall; 8 percent in-state; and 11 percent out-of-state. Applications from ALANA students are running an impressive 30 percent over last year. Lucier told trustees that he believes UVM is at a competitive price point with students who are also considering schools such as George Washington or Boston University. "Our value message has moved up," he said.

Diamond gave trustees an overview of the fundraising picture at UVM during difficult financial times. He reported that gift totals to UVM's annual fund are currently tracking very close to last year's, but that money is coming from 15 percent fewer donors. Diamond noted that raising funds for facilities will be a significant focus for UVM development in the years ahead given that the university is at its limit on dept financing for such projects. Another priority is determining when and how best to approach another major capital campaign following the 2007 close of the successful \$250 million Campaign for the University of Vermont. Trustee James Betts noted the long lag between the university's first campaign, which closed in 1994, and the second, which launched in 2001, and said it would be a mistake to repeat that history. "We need to roll into a process," Betts said. "Given the hard times, we still need to move ahead."

The **Committee of the Whole** reconvened following each mega-committee for an update on Campus Life Task Force II. The report was designed to assess and identify programmatic and student needs at the university related to major events, health, fitness and recreation and intercollegiate athletics. It was determined in previous updates that the university had major deficiencies in these areas, although no specific structural recommendations or dollar amounts were presented.

On Friday, Committee members were presented with the following six projects that would adequately address these deficiencies: outdoor fields (track and softball); a Center for Health and Wellbeing; a recreation center/field house; multipurpose events center; outdoor field (soccer, lacrosse and recreation); and a renovation of the aquatics center. The projects totaled \$190 million with the 6,500-seat, multi-purpose events center taking up the bulk of the cost at \$93 million. Committee members were told that each project could be built independently of the others and at different times. The Task Force started its fact finding more than a year ago when economic conditions were more favorable.

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## UVM Plays Key Role in Passage of Academic Laboratory Rule

By Jon Reidel

*Article published December 10, 2008*

The University of Vermont played a significant role in the recent passage of a new Academic Laboratory Rule by the Environmental Protection Agency aimed at improving the environmental performance of teaching and research laboratories owned by academic institutions across the country.

As one of three schools to participate in the Lab-XL Project, along with Boston College and UMass Boston, UVM collected data for the past eight years to determine if pollution prevention goals as well as improved regulatory compliance could be achieved as part of the new regulatory system. The evidence was compelling enough to convince the EPA to adopt the new rule, which provides increased regulatory flexibility while enhancing safe management of hazardous waste.

"We collected the data that showed how the protection of the environment can be achieved while allowing some flexibility in the lab," said Ralph Stuart, UVM's Environmental Safety Manager. "I am very pleased that we were able to help demonstrate the value of an alternative approach to managing chemical waste in laboratories. This rule is another demonstration of UVM's leadership role as an Environmental University."

The passage of the new Rule allows eligible academic entities to decide where a legal hazardous waste determination is made. At the same time, institutions must ensure certain conditions in the laboratory are met to protect human health and the environment. UVM showed a 13 percent reduction in the total amount of hazardous waste generated by the 500 laboratories on campus, resulting in a 20 percent savings in chemical waste for every research dollar spent. The training element of the XL Project includes more oversight processes, the ChemSource chemical redistribution program, and on-line laboratory training for the approximately 1,500 lab workers on campus.

The impetus for the change was fueled by a series of six and seven figure fines in the 1990s by state and federal authorities against colleges and universities for violations of hazardous waste regulations that were written for hazardous waste disposal from

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industry, which have led to Superfund sites like Love Canal. Stuart describes the violations as more of the “paperwork” variety focused on chemical labeling and the storage of containers for more than 3 days. He said that universities typically have much larger numbers of chemicals in smaller containers than larger industrial companies and that by allowing longer storage times, coupled with a buying program that allows for the purchase of smaller amounts of each chemical, the overall amount of waste produced was reduced.

Stuart and his colleagues produced three academic papers including “Life Outside of RCRA: The Lab-XL Experience” that appeared in the 2008 September/October issue of the *Journal of Chemical Health & Safety*. It concluded that “The increasing interest in higher education in addressing environmental aspects associated with campus operations can make the environmental management approach a significant asset to the chemical waste program as well as general environmental, health and safety programs and campus sustainability efforts.” The study is also used to help teach a course (ENVS 295 SL: Campus Sustainability) in environmental studies.

The next step will be for colleges and universities in each state to work with their respective regulators to revise their current hazardous waste program and adopt the new Rule. “We look forward to reviewing the new federal EPA rule and then working with the state of Vermont to consolidate the lessons learned from the pilot program experience into a plan that not only continues to reduce the amount of chemical waste produced by UVM labs, but also continues to improve the safety of people in and around UVM laboratories,” said Stuart.

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## Bowing to Financial Crisis, Senate Turns Meeting into Presidential Q&A

By Jeffrey Wakefield

*Article published December 10, 2008*

Responding to the stress of the current financial climate, Monday's Faculty Senate meeting took an alternate form: after a vote permitting it, President Robyn Warhol-Down postponed the scheduled agenda, turning over virtually all of the 90-minute session to a Q&A with President Daniel Mark Fogel. The meeting was jointly sponsored by the Faculty Senate and United Academics, the faculty union, which had proposed to senate leadership the idea of using the body's slotted time period for the presidential Q&A.

Fogel gave brief opening and closing remarks. Eleven faculty asked questions and were permitted one follow-up. A faint but audible electronic whistle enforced strict time limits for all.

In his opening Fogel stressed the severity and volatility of the current financial situation. Thanks to new or newly anticipated state rescissions, he said, the university now faces a budget gap for FY 2010 (beginning next July 1) of about \$28 million, up \$6 million from estimates earlier in the week. He assured senators that the Q&A was the first of many opportunities for faculty to "ask questions and express their viewpoints."

"We really are interested in transparent, open, and full communication that taps the resourcefulness and best thinking of our community," he said.

Fogel also shed light on the new accounting practice UVM adopted in the fall, which accounts for a little less than half the budget gap, of building a subset of annually recurring expenses into the university's base budget, rather than paying for them with one-time monies, a relatively common practice in higher ed.

The newly budgeted subset of recurring expenses, Fogel said, include such essentials as costs for personnel, predominantly in the colleges and schools, enrollment management activities, debt service, financial aid, tuition remission for UVM employees and their dependents, disability services, and technology transfer.

Fogel also described an important driver of the university's budget difficulties not related to the new accounting practice. In the past,



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the university could plan on a return of \$4-6 million on investments of UVM's cash on hand — used for immediate needs like payroll and largely derived from tuition payments received in August and December — and budgeted accordingly. After one quarter this year, cash investments have returned only about \$200,000.

### **Too much administration?**

Two faculty, engineering professor Nancy Hayden and English professor Nancy Welch, asked questions related to the number and salaries of senior administrators in the units and in the central administration.

"Will we see big administrative cuts?" Hayden asked.

Fogel said that, in an earlier cut this fall, faculty were held harmless and that considerably more than half the coming cuts would come from administrative areas. He also defended senior administrators by pointing to the results his leadership team has achieved.

"It is palpable in the eyes of the world and I hope in the eyes of this community (that UVM is) in a much stronger position today than we were in half a dozen years ago."

Two senators, economics professor Ross Thomson and nursing professor Judy Cohen, questioned Fogel's assertion that deans and faculty have a key role to play in shaping the cuts to come.

Thomson said he worried that "in setting targets" for budget cuts — budget targets will be delivered to deans and vice presidents next week — the most important "decisions have already been made," a point Cohen reiterated in a later question.

Fogel said while the broad approaches had been outlined for the units, "none of the detailed decisions have been made." Academic unit leaders, in collaboration with their faculty and staff, are in the best position to make the strategic, specific decisions that will "preserve and protect and even enhance academic quality," he said.

While setting targets must be largely a management decision, Fogel said, the metrics for determining those targets are straightforward, based in part on achieving a university-wide 16-1 faculty-student ratio.

During Lattie Coor's presidency, Fogel said, the ratio was 16.8 to 1, a number that had fallen to 13.8 to 1 by the time he came to UVM in 2002. It is now 15.2 to 1.

"That's one reason compensation was so uncompetitive and deferred maintenance was so big," he said.



In giving the colleges and schools their targets, the administration will look at a “mix of a standard percentage applied to everyone plus an additional amount for the schools that need to come closer to their own target ratios.” Each college and school has its own target ratio reflecting its instructional needs, with the 16-1 ratio representing an average across all units.

#### **Permanent one-time money**

Sociology professor Dan Krymkowski asked why the university had moved away from its old system of paying for recurring expenses with one-time monies.

“The temporary monies seemed to be there year after year, so I’m wondering if they were really permanent monies,” he said. Given that the money was so readily available, he asked if the transition could have been “phased in over a number of years.”

While the university had operated effectively enough under the old system, Fogel said, the current fiscal crisis exposed the liabilities of depending on one-time money. “When you lose four or five million dollars a year in earnings on short-term cash and your budget is being trimmed by the state, you see the liabilities you incur when you rely on those too much.”

He added that the cuts, in fact, are being phased, with only \$15 million of a total \$28 million shortfall coming out of next year’s budget. One-time reserves from a university fund designed to pay debt service on construction projects, which had accumulated a surplus, have been used to make the phasing possible.

Fogel said a Q&A on the UVM website covering some of the questions asked in the Faculty Senate meeting, as well as others, is being developed and will be posted within the next week.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

## Bowden to Lead \$5.5 Million Study on Arctic Meltdown

By Joshua Brown

*Article published December 10, 2008*

Across the Arctic, permafrost seems to be getting a lot less permanent. As stretches of once-frozen tundra melt, the underlying soil can collapse, leaving behind a bumpy landscape of hollows, hummocks and sinkholes that scientists call thermokarst.

"And in hilly terrain you can get massive landslides—thermokarst failures," says UVM watershed scientist Breck Bowden. Whole hillsides sometimes slough off, dumping tons of sediment into rivers and exposing mineral soils below.

To understand the ecological impacts of these thermokarst failures, Bowden has begun a four-year research study. He's leading a group of 13 investigators from 10 universities to northern Alaska. Funded by \$5.5 million from the National Science Foundation, \$1 million of the grant will come to UVM.

"The Arctic has long been considered a canary in the coalmine; some of the biggest impacts of climate change are going to be felt there first," Bowden says. As soils frozen for thousands of years collapse, engineers are already struggling with failing roads, buckling foundations and falling pipelines.

"But very few people have thought about the huge ecological impacts," Bowden says.

"When the hillside fails, we get this huge redistribution of nutrients across the landscape," he says, "we open up new niches in the landscape for plant colonization, we create opportunities for greenhouse gas emissions, we create opportunities for injecting massive amounts of sediments, and perhaps nutrients, into freshwaters."

Though thermokarst failures happen naturally throughout Arctic landscapes, Bowden and other scientists strongly suspect global warming has changed the equation. Considering estimates that about 70 percent of permafrost will be lost in the Canadian Arctic in the next half-century, "we expect to see many more of these thermokarst failures, which has got to have increasingly significant effects on the environment," Bowden says.



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Bowden's field studies will begin next June and continue through 2011, based out of the Toolik Field Station in the foothills of the Brooks Range. His part of the project will look at the impacts of thermokarst failures on streams. Other scientists will explore the hydraulics of hill-slopes, microbial processes in the soil, indigenous peoples' knowledge of the historical prevalence of thermokarsts, greenhouse emissions, and many other factors — all toward a goal of creating a clearer picture and better forecasting models of the Arctic's warmer future.

"We'll have a synthesis season in 2012," Bowden says, "that will really begin to reveal how all these different studies fit together."

Since the Arctic hold some 30 percent of all the carbon stored in the world, and a mighty store of the potent greenhouse gas methane, the results are likely to underscore scientists' growing awareness that the dynamics of global warming will be hugely influenced by thawing northern soils.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

## Faculty Book Signing

By The View Staff

*Article published December 10, 2008*

Meet UVM authors Tony Magistrale, professor of English, and Richard Johnson III, assistant professor of education, and buy a signed copy of their latest books or have your copy signed at Henderson's Cafe in the Davis Center on Monday, Dec. 15 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Magistrale, 2007 winner of the Bordighera Poetry Prize, published a new, bilingual collection of poems, *What She Says About Love*, in October. The poetry is inspired by his many trips to Italy.

Johnson released his book, *Resilience: Queer Professors from the Working Class*, in November. The book is a collection of personal essays that reveal the chill of academic life when you're both working class and queer.

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## NOTABLES

December 10, 2008

## Publications and Presentations

**Mark Youndt**, associate professor of business administration, was appointed to the editorial board of *Journal of Management Studies*. Consistently highly ranked in the Management section ISI Journal Citation Reports, the *Journal of Management Studies* is a global journal with a long established history of innovation and excellence in management research. International in scope and readership, the JMS is a multidisciplinary journal, publishing articles on organization theory and behaviour, strategic and human resource management - from empirical studies and theoretical developments to practical applications. Youndt and his coauthors, Caroline D'Abate (Skidmore College) and Kathryn Wenzel (Vitale, Caturano, and Company), had an article titled "Making the Most of an Internship: An Empirical Study of internship Satisfaction" accepted for publication in the *Academy of Management Learning and Education Journal*. Internships are becoming more widely used as learning tools for students to help fill in the gap between classroom learning and the practice of business; thus, it is important to understand what aspects of these experiences make them the most worthwhile. This particular study examined three broad factors (job characteristics, work environment characteristics, and contextual factors) which may contribute to internship satisfaction. Our results indicate that characteristics of the job (specifically, task significance and feedback) and characteristics of the work environment (in particular, learning opportunities, supervisor support, and organizational satisfaction) are the best predictors of internship satisfaction. Business schools, faculty, students, and host companies can use these findings to design these key developmental experiences in such a way as to maximize intern satisfaction and learning.

**Barbara McIntosh**, professor of business administration, served as a moderator at a Grafton Conference in November that focused on Vermont Aging Workforce Issues. McIntosh also spoke about older workers at an expert panel conference sponsored by the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) in Washington D.C. In addition, McIntosh was an author/co-author of three papers presented at the Gerontological Society of America meetings in Washington, D.C. The papers were titled "Changes in the Determinants of Financial Satisfaction Among Those 65 and Older:

Results from the General Social Surveysâ€• with **Nick Danigelis**, professor of sociology; â€œCommitment and Retention: Older Nurses compared to Their Younger Colleagues"; â€œCross Sectoral Inter-organizational Partnerships: A Blueprint for Capacity-building in Local Aging-related Networksâ€• with Barbara Hirshorn.

**Kevin C. Chiang**, associate professor of business administration, has an article that was accepted for publication in the *Journal of Real Estate Finance and Economics*. The article is titled "Discovering Reit Price Discovery: A New Data Setting."â€• The study decomposes real estate investment trust (reit) returns into two components: real returns and public returns. The real returns are based on the changes in the private, appraisal-based net asset values of reits, whereas the public returns are measured by the variations in reitsâ€™ premiums/discounts. This study then investigates the price discovery of reit prices. The results indicate that lagged public returns are useful in predicting real returns. In addition, the study documents concurrent factor exposures for public returns and lagged factor exposures for private returns under a variety of asset pricing models. Overall, the results are consistent with the notion that public markets are more efficient in processing information. Chiang also co-authored an article with Thomas Zhou that was accepted for publication in the *Journal of Accounting and Finance*. The article is titled "Do Aggressive Funds Reallocate their Portfolios Aggressively?" The study examines pairs of asset allocation mutual funds that are controlled for all informational attributes, except for the level of risk aversion. Standard mean-variance models of portfolio choice suggest that the percentage rebalancing of common stocks in aggressive funds would be the same as that in conservative funds. However, the study finds the rebalancing of common stocks in aggressive funds to be disproportionately less intense.

Four current and former graduate students in Communication Sciences and one current undergraduate student (a McNair Scholar) presented their research papers with their faculty collaborators at the annual convention of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) in Chicago, Illinois this November. **Patricia Prelock**, a member of the Board of Directors of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association as Vice President for Standards and Ethics in Speech Language Pathology, **Blake Clifton**, **Rebecca McCauley** and **Efleda Preclaro Tolentino** presented a paper titled "Pen Pal Exchanges Between Children with Autism & Their Typical Peers." **Laura Bonazinga**, **Tiffany Hutchins**, **Prelock**, **McCauley** and **Timothy Stickle** presented a paper titled "The Revised Maternal Perception of Childrenâ€™s Theory of Mind Measure." **Michael Cannizzaro** and **Herald Bonnici** presented a paper titled "A Case study in Myotonic Dystrophy: Measures over 15 intervention sessions." **Erin Ferland-Maskell** and **Prelock** presented a paper titled "Maternal Perceptions & Observations of

Play in Children with Autism." **Prelock, Hutchins, Tiffany Hartwell** and **Gayle Belin**, who also participated in the final portion of the ASHA Leadership Development Program, a group of 20 professionals chosen from a nationwide search, presented a paper titled "Retention of SLPs in Vermont: Relationships among caseload, workload, job satisfaction and Best Practice."

*December 3*

### **Publications and Presentations**

**David Brock**, assistant professor of rehabilitation and movement science, is lead author of a paper for publication in the *Journal of Physical Activity and Health*. Titled "Association Between Insufficiently Physically Active and the Prevalence of Obesity in the United States," the paper will be published in January 2009. Brock's co-authors on the study are Charles Cowan, former chief statistician for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and U.S. Department of Education and David Allison, president-elect of the North American Association for the Study of Obesity.

**Jack Leahy**, professor of medicine and chief of endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism, is lead author of a Nov. 21 *Journal of Biological Chemistry* paper titled "In Vivo and in Vitro Studies of a Functional Peroxisome Proliferator-activated Receptor  $\gamma$  Response Element in the Mouse pdx-1 Promoter." Co-authors on the study include Dhananjay Gupta, postdoctoral associate in endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism; Thomas Jetton, associate professor of medicine; and Mina Peshavaria, research assistant professor of medicine.

### **Awards and Honors**

The YWCA of Vermont board of directors elected six new directors at its annual meeting of members on Nov. 19, including **Jane Hill**, assistant professor of engineering in environmental microbiology and biotechnology, and **Regina Toolin**, assistant professor of secondary education.

**Robert Manning**, professor of natural resources, is the first winner of the George Wright Society Social Science Achievement Award. This new award was established by the GWS Board of Directors to recognize outstanding achievements in social science research that influences management of parks, protected areas, and cultural sites. Manning is cited for his leadership in establishing and carrying out a long-term and nationally prominent program of applied research on visitor use and management in many units of the U.S. national park system, as well as his distinguished record of teaching and published scholarship in park-related social science and outdoor recreation issues. The award will be presented at a