LISTENING to the STARS
On the road with Professor Joanna Rankin and students
ON THE COVER: The National Science Foundation’s Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico. Photograph by Joshua Brown

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ON THE COVER: The National Science Foundation’s Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico. Photograph by Joshua Brown
Returning this summer to the UVM family as interim president has been an honor and a privilege. Although I did not seek the position, I care deeply about this institution and concluded that it was my responsibility to serve at this extraordinary time in our history. With your help, involvement, and commitment, I believe we can make significant progress to the benefit of this place we all cherish, paving the way for the success of UVM and its next president.

Thanks to the work of Dan Fogel and many others, we have a strong foundation to build upon, and I will do my utmost to keep UVM on a sustainable and successful course. To do this, it is essential that we do not let the remarkable steps forward we have made on so many fronts allow us to be complacent. Part of my role here over the months ahead is to help us be a community that talks openly and truthfully about the challenges we face and operates with respect and fairness. That I pledge to do. There has been much talk about budget challenges, and we do face some, as does virtually every other institution of higher education. It is unrealistic over the next decade to expect growth in revenue from federal or state sources when budgets are falling or significantly constrained. Nor can we rely on increases in tuition as we continue to face high unemployment and a stagnant economy. We must focus on the quality and value of the education we offer, ensure that our research university and land grant college and that must be increasingly reflected in our relationship with and priorities for Vermont. We can be proud of how we serve Vermont and you can help reinforce that message.

For example, when people say UVM is not affordable for Vermonters, remind them that our tuition is less than Vermont’s only research university and you can help reinforce that message.

I suspect that this type of process will become the norm as this decade will see economic challenges and change that will have immense impact on institutions, businesses, and citizens throughout our country. As that happens, higher education will become ever more important to our nation’s future than it is today.

Close to home in the Green Mountains, I plan to make the essential ties between our state and our state university a steady refrain during my tenure as interim president. We have been the University of Vermont for more than two hundred years and we will be for another two hundred years. We are Vermont’s only research university and we are Vermont’s oldest nursery, offering the finest balsam wreaths. Handcrafted in Vermont’s Northeast Kingdom, our wreaths will add the look and scent of Vermont to your Christmas festivities. Each wreath is double-sided, measures 22” in diameter, and tastefully decorated with pine cones, berries, and a red velvet bow. We’ll gladly enclose a gift card.

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UVM VETERAN LEADS AS INTERIM PRESIDENT
John Bramley, who has served the university in many roles across the past two decades, assumed the post of interim president on August 1. His appointment came after President Daniel Mark Fogel announced that for personal reasons he would step down from the presidency this summer rather than the July 2012 previously planned. A tenured professor in the English Department, Fogel will return to teaching in January 2013 following a sabbatical.
Interim President Bramley has served as department chair of Animal Sciences, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and provost and senior vice president of the university. In 2006 he also served as acting president during President Fogel’s illness. Most recently, from 2007 to 2011, Bramley has served as president and CEO of the Windham Foundation, the largest private foundation registered in Vermont.

“We are extremely fortunate that John Bramley was both available and willing to step into this important role,” Board of Trustees Chair Robert Cioffi ’90 said in announcing the appointment. “Quite frankly, there could not be a better choice for this job in light of John’s experience, skills, character, and knowledge of UVM, in addition to his outstanding scholarly record. One of the board’s primary goals is to keep the university’s upward trajectory moving ahead, and the appointment of John Bramley ensures that is going to happen.”

Cioffi said the search for UVM’s next president will continue on the schedule announced last spring with an appointment expected in early to mid-2013. Bramley is expected to serve in the interim capacity until July 2012 and has said he will not be a candidate for president.

As Hurricane Irene roared up the East Coast on August 28, much of the media were poised for the potential of a flooded lower Manhattan. But as the storm passed the city relatively uneventfully in the morning, the story would shift north through the afternoon to a very different landscape. Online video of a Vermont covered bridge being torn from its foundation and swept away by a raging river would be among the iconic images of Irene many will remember years from now.

At UVM, the storm resulted in canceling the transcendence ceremony and the first day of classes, but life at the university was relatively unaffected. That would change in the afternoon as numerous efforts and initiatives to help Vermont recover from the storm have rewritten business-as-usual for many during the fall semester.

SARAH WATERMAN, a UVM post-bac/pre-med student, watched the rain pour down in Burlington with the eyes of one who worked in the Hurricane Katrina recovery effort. As she talked on the phone with her parents in East Montpelier and saw the television images of southern and central Vermont rivers running ferociously, Waterman knew the need for help would be immediate, daunting, and multi-faceted. Her brainchild, #VTRelief, was a quicksilver, Internet-age reaction to the storm that established an online resource connecting those in need with those willing to help. The site was up and running not long after Irene cleared Vermont’s borders.

Waterman joined with Matt Sisto ’07 and Katze Kent in the effort that involved eighteen-hour days on the part of all three as the site was finding its legs. #VTRelief had 8,000 hits on the Monday after the storm, nearly 30,000 by Tuesday, and quickly became the go-to resource for those offering help and those needing it.

HEATHER DARBY, an agronomist and UVM Extension professor, has spent her career working with farmers on crop-related issues by listening to their needs and providing the latest agricultural research. Helping those same farmers, many of whom she considers friends, recover from the destruction caused by Tropical Storm Irene has been personally and professionally challenging for the field crops and nutrition management specialist.

“You can’t imagine the destruction until you see it,” Darby says. “We’re trying to do everything we can—vaccinations, testing of grain and plants, clearing fields, and just getting our hands dirty and doing what needs to be done. A lot of farmers are isolated, stressed out, and just need someone to talk to. Once you’re there and in it and see the devastation, it’s the only thing on your mind; nothing else matters.”

Darby is among the 140 UVM Extension faculty and staff helping farmers and others move forward after Irene. The questions have come fast and furious and require answers that could have life-altering consequences. Can I still sell my crops? How do I file a claim to receive FEMA funds? What can I replant? Do you test plants and grain for disease? What do I tell people about food safety? How do I inform customers that my crops are safe to consume? Some of those answers might be found at UVM’s Agricultural and Environmental Testing Lab, which offered free soil tests for the many farmers concerned about the fertility and potential toxicity of their soil.

CARRIE WILLIAMS HOWE, director of UVM’s Community-University Partnerships & Service-Learning, had been working to develop a course in response to the spring flooding that hit Vermont hard. The second, more brutal punch of Tropical Storm Irene added urgency and vital relevance to that work in progress.

Within a week, Howe and her co-instructor Kelly Hamshaw, a research specialist in community development and applied economics, created “Rebuilding Vermont: Community Engagement in Disaster Preparation and Relief.” As quickly as the course came together, it filled even more rapidly. Within a few hours, twenty-six students from a wide variety of disciplines had juggled their class schedules to add it in.

In studying disaster preparation and relief, the new course has drawn on existing faculty expertise: Hamshaw, together with her CDAE colleague Dan Baker, has studied the vulnerability of mobile home communities to disaster. Sociology Professor Alice Fothergill added her experience studying the particular issues of children and families in the aftermath of disasters to the discussion.

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While planning the course. Characteristic of a service-learning course, the students have combined their classroom study with volunteer work in the field and reflection on that experience. In the first weeks of the course the class has traveled to Westmont Mobile Home Park in Burlington to help residents in their effort to recover from the devastation that hit their community.

“We wanted to create this course so that our response would last beyond the initial clean-up, making a commitment to long-term recovery,” Howe says. “In addition, we wanted to give our students the opportunity to contribute to recovery while also thinking critically about what that engagement means.”

For many in the university community—students, faculty, staff, and alumni—Irene relief has been at a personal, on-the-ground level. Thousands of individuals picking up a shovel, a crowbar, a chainsaw, a bucket of water with bleach and a rag to help fellow Vermonters put their lives back together.

As Sarah Waterman sensed on the night of the storm, the needs would be many and diverse, as would the efforts to help. That has proven the case at UVM and in the extended alumni community. For Mike Gordon ’77 and his bandmates in Phish, Irene relief meant a concert, underwritten by PC Construction, at the Champlain Valley Fairgrounds that raised an estimated $1.2 million. When the State of Vermont’s computers were compromised by flooding, UVM’s mainframes offered shelter from the storm for critical data. Weeks later, thirty state scientists displaced by flooded Waterbury offices, many of them working in roles critical to the recovery effort, took up residence alongside UVM faculty in campus labs.

DEAN SANJAY SHARMA
Sanjay Sharma, new dean of the School of Business Administration, comes to UVM after successful leadership of the John Molson School of Business at Concordia University in Montreal. Prior to academia, Sharma’s career was focused in the private sector, including sixteen years of senior level management experience with multiple international corporations.

A. I don’t necessarily think that bigger is better or that growth is always good. One of the things I like about UVM’s business school is that I can get to know the students, and I have more time for each and every faculty member. It’s good to be able to have that kind of easy interaction. Since UVM is much smaller and doesn’t have a critical mass of students or faculty in any one area, we essentially need to choose just one or two signature areas. Right now we have nine concentrations, but not enough faculty to provide the depth of electives or a critical enough mass of students for all of them. So we need to consolidate; essentially need to choose just one or two. Students or faculty in any one area, we need to consolidate; essentially need to choose just one or two.

Q. Under your guidance the John Molson School of Business grew from 5,000 students to 8,900 in three years and the MBA program earned a top 100 world ranking from The Economist. How did you effect that change?
A. 1. My success there was essentially based on teamwork. I was able to get a great team of people together, and along with a strong leadership team at the school, we worked with alumni, the business community, and senior administration, and were able to get a lot done. If you can’t, and people don’t work together, then you start to fumble. One person can’t do it. Everyone has to come together, and I think we can do that here. Faculty members have to buy into a vision they help create, of course, because you can’t force them to do something they don’t believe in or that they don’t find exciting. I think they’re ready.
Q. Considering how much smaller the business school is at UVM, do you think the same model for success will work here?
A. I’d also like to focus on career management services. At the Molson School we hired a former HR manager from Royal Bank of Canada, and he built a team around him that resulted in The Economist ranking the John Molson School of Business number one in the world for career management services. About 90 percent of the two thousand students we graduated each year got jobs within three months. We also built a strong case competition program. This contributed to career placement because these students competed against the best schools in the world in front of industry judges in cross cultural settings, so when they went on job interviews they were poised, confident, worldly, and experienced. This is an area I’d like to put money into at UVM.

We need to get this place humming. We need to grow an MBA program that graduates fifty students a year that creates that buzz—that hum that exists at schools with more of a critical mass of MBA students. We are working on bringing a panel of five high-powered experts to campus who are household names in the financial service industry, including regulators, to talk about the financial crisis and why it happened and how do we know it’s not going to happen again. It’s events like these, and all of the other things I’ve mentioned that get people excited, and ultimately lead to success.
—Interview by Jon Reidl ’00
THEGREEN

ONE
DAY

Life is in the details, they say. On Tuesday, October 11, staff from the Vermont Cynic Communications took this truism to heart, fanning across campus from 5 a.m. to just past midnight to find the many small stories that, taken together, tell a larger one.

The result is a diverse mix of photos, video, and text that capture the multifaceted energy of this one particular “Day in the Life of UVM.”

alumni.uvm.edu/vq

More methane potentially means more energy and income for dairy farmers. Watch a video on UVM research: alumni.uvm.edu/vq

ONLINE EXTRA

ONLINE EXTRA

Continued on page 10

F ireworks, fried food from the fair, and the Casey Anthony trial. If this list conjures up memories from the summer of 2011 for anyone, it’s under-

grad Natalie Dilliasco ’12. For three months, the Pitman, New Jersey, native wrote and contributed to articles on these topics and others as a news intern at the national paper, USA Today.

Not only did Dilliasco land a prestigious internship in the heart of the USA Today newsroom, she broke records while there. Just four days after arriving, Dilliasco scored a front-page story on the dampening effect of drought and budget cuts on firework displays around the country—the fastest, in the memory of her editor Dennis Lyons, any intern had achieved A1 placement.

The next week, she landed another front-page spot with her article on a national trend toward implementing flashing, left-turn signals to improve traffic safety—a trend she discovered through her own reporting. All told, Dilliasco earned eighteen bylines for USA Today, six of which were printed on page one.

Dilliasco discovered her passion for journalism at the UVM student paper, the Vermont Cynic, where she has risen from reporter to news editor to her post this year as editor-in-chief.

What will it mean to have an editor-in-chief with Dilliasco’s experience at the helm?

“I’ve been working with the paper for five years, and have seen it grow by leaps and bounds,” Chris Evans, student media adviser, says. (The Cynic is a finalist for Collegiate Journalism’s 2011 Pacemaker Award in the non-daily university category.) “I expect this to be another shift in the way the Cynic operates, Natalie has been a phenomenal guide already, and her vision is going to be so much wider, larger. She’s always surpris- ing me with the kind of work she does and what she achieves.”

—Amanda Waite ’02 G’04

Research

A STATEWIDE BENEFIT

L aughing babies, strange bacteria from the bottom of asbestos mines, and schizophrenic rats could be found in the DoubleTree Hotel in South Burlington one day this summer. Well, really, these were just topics in a few of the posters and talks presented during the annual retreat of the Vermont Genetics Network.

But they highlight the range of research that the network has enabled over the last nine years. And with $16.1 million of new funding awarded from the National Institutes of Health in July of 2010, the group has accelerated its work of advancing biological and medical discoveries in Vermont.

“VGN helps faculty and students across the whole state,” says UVM’s Judith Van Houten, University Distin-

guished Professor of Biology and director of the Vermont Genetics Network located at UVM.

“The VGN builds biomedi-
cal research capacity at our many partner institutions,” she says. These include: Cas- continued on page 10
THE GREEN

NEW MEDIA

Vermont Voices

People have long pondered the possibilities—“if these walls could talk”—in a sense, they now can at UVM thanks to an innovative partnering between the university and Broadcast.com, a Web-based compendium of audio clips linked to geographical locations. Alumnus Scott Lindeman ‘04, Broadcast.com co-founder, likes to refer to the site as an audio “museum tour of the world.”

As the scope and depth of the catalog of clips grows daily, the cluster on the hill in Burlington has experienced a particular growth spurt thanks to a number of recorded stories and comments by UVM faculty, staff, students, and alumni. One can now bring up Broadcast on a mobile device, navigate to Williams Hall, for instance, and hear about the building’s place in architectural history, and hear about the building’s influence of the late Professor Paul Aschenbach. Burlington—and feel free to join in and add UVM stories of your own.*

GREEN

Burlington State College, Green Mountain College, Johnson State College, Lyndon State College, Middlebury College, Norwich University, and Saint Michael’s College.

Faculty at these schools and UVM apply for competitive grants from VGN that allow them to develop a record of research success. “Junior faculty are the highest priority,” explains Van Houten, and funding from VGN often allows these young scientists to spend about half their time on research.

In addition, the VGN runs microarray and proteomics facilities on the UVM campus that give researchers from across the state access to advanced capabilities in analyzing DNA, RNA, and proteins. Often this work is combined with consulting in the design and analysis of molecular biology experiments—through the VGN’s staff experts in bioinformatics. The result, Van Houten says, is that Vermont faculty have access to world class research tools and techniques that might otherwise be out of reach at schools that have traditionally focused on undergraduate teaching.

“Impact on Boulder...”

This approach really supports biomedical workforce development in Vermont,” Van Houten says, “because it allows talented faculty in the colleges around the state to succeed with cutting-edge research. They then inspire their students—because they’re active researchers—to go on in biomedical careers, technical careers, or to medical schools.”

“We’ve had many faculty go on to get their own funding and then they don’t need funding any longer through VGN—that’s the goal,” Van Houten says. “The goal is to provide the capacity to make them competitive for national funding.”

Funded through the NIH’s National Center for Research Resources, the 2010 renewal of the Vermont Genetics Network relied on key support from U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy. The $16.1 million represents the largest single investigator grant—awarded to Van Houten as the principal investigator overseeing the VGN—in UVM’s history.

“The funding is especially significant given the decrease in federal NIH funding levels on a national scale,” Van Houten says, “and as confirmation of the excellent scientific research contributions being conducted in Vermont. UVM is the lead institution in the VGN, but we’re truly a statewide network working on globally relevant problems.”

Training

American college students often push their schools to live up to their ideals; not so often do they directly supply the means to reach those goals. Not the case with clean energy at UVM. In 2003, a group of students began to urge the university to explore cleaner forms of energy, which led to a survey that showed 88 percent of students willing to add a $5 per semester fee for that purpose. Following Student Government Association and UVM Board of Trustees approval, the Clean Energy Fund was born in 2008.

“Students were saying ‘we want a campus where we can see sustainability and evolution towards a more sustainable way of living in action, around us, and we’re not seeing it,’” says Gioia Thompson ’87 G’00, director of the Office of Sustainability. “They spent two years pushing for this because they wanted more action on the renewable energy front. The real value of the Clean Energy Fund, beyond even the projects themselves, is the experience gained by students, faculty, and staff going through the process and consensus building it takes to bring these ideas to fruition.”

Progress is tangible on campus: solar tracker installations, a grid-tied photovoltaic system generating power at the Hardacre Equine Center, hands-on renewable energy courses, research projects, speakers, and internships. The most visible outcome is a field of seventeen photovoltaic panels installed in December 2010 at the U.S. Forest Service on Spear Street. The solar panels supply 10 percent of the electric power needs of the Aiken Center by generating 95,880 kilowatt-hours per year while preventing thirty-five metric tons of carbon emission. The Aiken solar trackers were among the eleven projects presented to the Clean Energy Fund’s student-initiated Clean Energy Fund projects.

CAMPUS ENERGY

A field of solar panels on Spear Street is among the student-initiated Clean Energy Fund projects.

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A field of solar panels on Spear Street is among the student-initiated Clean Energy Fund projects.

* Students are learning more about the fund all the time and have been impressed with the solar trackers and the course offerings,” says CEF Committee Chair Alex McConaghy, a senior business major who is working on a ‘green IT’ proposal with business school lecturer Thomas Chittenden G’04 that would reduce energy loads from desktop computers. “I’ve learned a lot about the importance of working with people from different backgrounds to select projects that help the environment and make sense from a business perspective.”

While students have stepped up to get the CEF off the ground, alumni David Arms ’88, alumni rep to the Clean Energy Fund and owner of a dairy brokerage firm in Shelburne, says he sees an opportunity for alumni to help maintain its success. Arms has offered matching funds for the first $5,000 donated by alumni to the fund and encourages the input of ideas, as well. “The committee really endeavors to use the funds judiciously and make it work for students and the university,” Arms says, noting that UVM can be a model for individuals and businesses in the state through the CEF initiatives.

ENVIRONMENT: CLEANER, GREENER CAMPUS ENERGY

American college students often push their schools to live up to their ideals; not so often do they directly supply the means to reach those goals. Not the case with clean energy at UVM. In 2003, a group of students began to urge the university to explore cleaner forms of energy, which led to a survey that showed 88 percent of students willing to add a $5 per semester fee for that purpose. Following Student Government Association and UVM Board of Trustees approval, the Clean Energy Fund was born in 2008.

“Students were saying ‘we want a campus where we can see sustainability and evolution towards a more sustainable way of living in action, around us, and we’re not seeing it,’” says Gioia Thompson ’87 G’00, director of the Office of Sustainability. “They spent two years pushing for this because they wanted more action on the renewable energy front. The real value of the Clean Energy Fund, beyond even the projects themselves, is the experience gained by students, faculty, and staff going through the process and consensus building it takes to bring these ideas to fruition.”

Progress is tangible on campus: solar tracker installations, a grid-tied photovoltaic system generating power at the Hardacre Equine Center, hands-on renewable energy courses, research projects, speakers, and internships. The most visible outcome is a field of seventeen photovoltaic panels installed in December 2010 at the U.S. Forest Service on Spear Street. The solar panels supply 10 percent of the electric power needs of the Aiken Center by generating 95,880 kilowatt-hours per year while preventing thirty-five metric tons of carbon emission. The Aiken solar trackers were among the eleven projects presented to the Clean Energy Fund’s student-initiated Clean Energy Fund projects.

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Tales from the brink

It was a tipping point of cultural concern about ecological issues—and the rapid decline of charismatic creatures like bald eagles and alligators—inspired creation of the Endangered Species Act, passed in the Senate 92-0 and signed into law by President Richard Nixon.

Listed: Dispatches from America’s Endangered Species Act traces the four-decade history of the law. Looking back, passage of the ESA is “a feat just about unimaginable forty years on,” says the book’s author, Joe Roman, a conservation biologist in UVM’s Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources.

Roman calls for a broad network of biodiversity parks to connect isolated islands of current habitat, biodiversity trust funds, better conservation of agricultural and rural lands that border wilderness areas, and, perhaps most importantly, shrinking the human ecological footprint by reducing population and consumption.

“It’s really about ecosystems,” he says, “You can’t protect a species outside of its ecosystem and you can’t protect an ecosystem without protecting its species."

—Joshua Brown

Listed (Harvard University Press) offers up a cross-the-nation tour following the stories of the many creatures (and a few plants) that have been at the center of the ESA’s contested place in American life: whooping cranes, right whales, gray wolves, Indiana bats, Florida panthers, and others.

The story begins with an odd and small fish, the snail darter, that almost stopped an enormous dam. The now-iconic fight over the Tennessee Valley Authority’s Tellico Dam highlights how much has changed since the act’s inception. The Supreme Court ruled in favor of the darter. Brought before Congress, a Tennessee legislator named Al Gore voted to change the rules in favor of the dam. Freshman congressman Newt Gingrich voted for the fish. The fish lost.

Some creatures—like the snail darter that disappeared from the Little Tennessee River (though it survived elsewhere)—went extinct as the pressures of dam-builders and developers led to changes and exemptions in the Endangered Species Act. "The ESA has been more flexible over time," Roman says, "it’s become more of a permitting act than a prohibiting act." But many other creatures, like the bald eagle, have recovered and now thrive thanks to ESA protection.

"Although it may be decades before we can adequately assess its effectiveness," Roman writes, "it is clear that protection works. If we see the glass as half full, most listed species improve or remain stable. Dozens more would have gone extinct without protection."

Despite its successes, the number of species on the ESA list has "grown by almost an order of magnitude," Roman says. And the number of species projected to go extinct globally in the next century may reach fifty percent.

"There are steps that can be taken to steer us away from mass extinction, to approach the Holy Grail of conservation: zero extinction in our lifetime," Roman writes. "We need to strengthen regulatory rules like the Endangered Species Act," he says, and also put money toward landowner incentive plans, endangered species banking efforts, and studies to show the ecological and economic value of endangered species.

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Every mountain and hill shall be made low, declared the ancient prophet Isaiah. In other words: erosion happens. But for the modern geologist a vexing question remains: how fast does this erosion happen?

For more than a century, scientists have looked for ways to measure and compare erosion rates across differing landscapes around the globe—but with limited success.

“Knowing the background rate of erosion for a place is extremely important,” says UVM geologist Paul Bierman, “if you want to compare it to what’s coming off the landscape today because of human impacts like agriculture, development, and forestry.”

Since the mid-1980s, measurements of a rare radioactive element—beryllium-10 that appears in quartz bombarded by cosmic rays in the top few feet of Earth’s surface—have greatly improved geologists’ ability to estimate erosion rates. But these experiments have been done on a local or regional scale, using a variety of methods, calculation constants, and corrections. Comparisons between climate zones and differing rock types have been difficult—cutting off a global perspective.

Now Bierman and his graduate student, Eric Portenga, have taken twenty years worth of this disparate data, compiled 1,599 measurements from eighty-seven sites around the world, and recalculated it with a single, up-to-date method.

Their work, “provides the first broad, standardized view of pre-human, geologic erosion rates,” they write in “Understanding Earth’s eroding surface with 10Be,” published in the August edition of the journal GSA Today.

SUSTAINABLE SOIL

“Nobody has stepped back far enough to look at this big picture,” says Bierman, “we all work on our little postage stamps of the world—Africa, South America, the western United States.” But many of the pressing questions about erosion are global in scale.

Most urgent, the ability to support the nine billion people forecast to be living on Earth by mid-century rests directly on the resiliency of soil systems and the health of water supplies. And these two pillars of sustainable soil health are directly and deeply affected by erosion.

The method used in this new study can provide a good tool for measuring the sustainability of modern agricultural practices, Bierman notes, since the beryllium-10 data shows the rate at which landscapes have been changing in the recent geologic past: the last thousand to several-hundred-thousand years. “If human impacts result in rates faster than we measure, it’s non-sustainable,” he says.

Portenga sees how this study can help managers in contested landscapes like the Chesapeake Bay. “Regulators may want to stipulate an ideal amount of sediment coming out of a river system and they may say that they want to get this back to ‘normal’ standards or ‘normal rate.’ But what is that rate? What was the erosion like before people started interacting with the landscape?” he says.

Not being able to answer that question well has contributed to many regulatory conflicts. “This work can help give a better idea of what is normal,” says Portenga, who was the lead author on the study.

NO SMOKING GUN

This new study also goes fairly far in identifying the environmental factors—including latitude, annual precipitation, and, especially, slope—that drive erosion rates in drainage basins. The mechanisms controlling erosion on outcrops of bedrock are less clear.

Using several statistical tests, Portenga and Bierman were able to explain about sixty percent of what controls differing erosion rates in drainage basins around the world. But their study only explains about thirty percent of the variability between outcrops of bedrock.

“This means geologists are missing a lot of the crucial information about what is controlling bedrock erosion,” Portenga says.

Little studied variables—like the density of fractures in bedrock, the strength of rocks, and their chemistry—may be controlling erosion rates, the study suggests.

“I don’t think we’ll ever find the single smoking gun of erosion,” says Portenga, “the natural world is so complex and there are so many factors that contribute to how landscapes change over time. But as this method develops, we will have a better sense of what variables are important—and which are not—in this erosion story.”

For example, it has been a truism of geology for decades that rainfall is the biggest driver of erosion. Semi-arid landscapes with little vegetation and occasional major storms were understood to have the greatest rates of erosion. But this study challenges that idea.

“It turns out that the greatest control on erosion is not mean annual precipitation,” says Bierman. Instead, look at slope.

“People had always thought slope was important,” Bierman says, “but these data show that slope is really important.”

MODELING THE FUTURE

Their new study, supported by the National Science Foundation, is part of a larger long-term goal of creating a global model that can predict the background rate and patterns of erosion across the whole planet—and how these erosion rates will respond to changes like human-induced climate change.

“Following this study, we can start to answer big questions like, ‘how does climate drive erosion?’” says Bierman. In other words, a clearer picture of what global erosion has looked like in the recent past will start to illuminate what is likely to happen in the future as human impacts and land-use decisions play out.

“We want a predictive model,” says Bierman, “we want to be able to have somebody say, ‘here’s my drainage basin, here’s the climate, here’s the rock type, here’s the slope, here’s the mean annual precipitation: how quickly is this eroding? That’s what you need for land management.”
ak-paneled walls, spring sunlight slanting through leaded glass windows, the auditorium in Yale’s Sterling Law Building fills as nearly four hundred students chat before class, flipping open their laptops and notebooks. Not a single one is here to learn about the law.

At the front of the room, Alexander Nemerov ’85, department chair and Vincent Scully professor of art history, makes last-minute adjustments to the projector and prepares to deliver the final lecture of the semester in his Western Art Survey, a course that across the past six years has grown to boasting the largest enrollment of any single undergraduate class at Yale University.

Of all the courses that might fill Yale’s Levinson Auditorium, why this one?

While Nemerov is a leading voice in his field, one could toss a croissant in the Au Bon Pain just up the street in New Haven and, arguably, hit a half-dozen Yale faculty who could say the same. As a lecturer, Nemerov is not the “entertainer” type; instead, he brings a presence, a quiet dignity that requests attention. He doesn’t stand behind a lectern, use a microphone, or work from notes, Nemerov says, because that would mediate between him and the students. He looks at the floor a good deal of the time, searching his thoughts as he speaks.

The professor begins his final lecture of the spring 2011 semester with a thank you to the class: “There are very few days in one’s life where one gets to stand up and talk to so many people, so many of whom are so receptive to what one cares so deeply about. That’s why I say thank you.”

What’s so funny about paintings, poems & understanding?

by Thomas Weaver
Embodied in that thanks, the phrase “what one cares so deeply about” suggests why the Yale Law auditorium is needed to accommodate this class and why—an hour later, after Nemerov has wended his way through Pieter Bruegel’s 1560 painting *The Fall of Icarus* and W.H. Auden’s 1938 poem “Musée des Beaux Arts” with side visits to several hundred years of art and cultural history along the way—students will burst into thirty seconds of sustained applause with their teacher’s last word of the semester.

Nemerov has made it plain: this matters.

But for the fact that the blue cover is faded with age, the spiral notebook looks as if it could have just been pulled from a backpack in Bailey/Howe Library. “University of Vermont” printed on the cover, snarling catamount in profile, college ruled and margin line, eighty sheets. Earlier in the morning before his last lecture of the semester, Alex Nemerov takes the notebook down from a shelf in his sixth-floor office in Yale University’s impressive new Loria Building, home to art history.

“Spring of 1982 art history survey class—that was a foundational class for me,” he says. As Nemerov flips through the twenty-nine-year-old notebook, one gets a sense for his earnestness as a student with page after page of exuberantly highlighted notes, purple print ditto sheets tucked away. “Here’s my exam. Wow, I didn’t even see that… February 18, 1982 … oh, I got a B+ …” Eventually he finds what he’s after, his notes with blurbs under the heading of the Feyerng-Stephany’s comments regarding *The Fall of Icarus*. “When I say that those classes continue to have an effect on me, I’m very serious,” Nemerov says. “It is completely direct; I’m still drawing on the stuff that I learned almost thirty years ago now.”

This literal paging through the past stirs memories of not only the knowledge his UVM professors imparted, but also what they taught him about being a teacher. Mary Jane Dickerson in English; Margaret Roland, Bill Lipke, and Feyerng-Stephany in art history, were all key influences.

“They played a real formative role by being incredibly patient with me. I was very aware about the material, and I studied hard and got good grades, but I was also… He trails off, pauses. “I was not a paragon of something, and not necessarily to hold that against them—to see being a professor as being someone who is able to be patient.”

He suggests that a major test of his academic legacy came from the Cynic, where Nemerov estimates he wrote four or five pieces weekly. Indeed, browsing back issues of the student newspaper from that era find him rising from sports writer to sports editor to editor-in-chief. Bylines range from hockey player profiles to university investment policy to “Floor plagued by obscene calls.”

“There is absolutely not a single piece I wrote that I would look to now, with the possible exception of one, that has any kind of philosophical bearing on who I am as a thinker,” Nemerov says. “However, the more repetition to do that much writing, with that much consistency, was enormously helpful to me.”

For their part, Nemerov’s UVM mentors, all now retired, are quick to remember him more as a favorite student than trial of patience. Told about the popularity of his art survey course at Yale, Margaret Roland says, “Bless his heart!” She and others recall Nemerov’s indepth thought, curiosity, humor, humility, determination, and frequent visits during office hours to talk about academics or to just talk. “He was a decent writer, better prepared than some,” Dickerson says. “But Alex knew what was good and was never satisfied. He had that persistence, a kind of doggedness.”

Understandingly, young Alexander Nemerov likely brought lofty intellectual and literary expectations of himself to UVM his freshman year. His father, Howard Nemerov, was Poet Laureate of the United States when Alex was born in 1963 (and again in the late 1980s). His mother had a deep interest in history and tragic sense of the past from living in London during the Blitz of 1940 and ’41. His aunt, (Howard’s sister), was famed American photographer Diane Arbus. Nemerov’s mother passed away last January; his father in 1993; Arbus in 1971.

Nemerov says that if he dealt with this family legacy at all during his UVM years, it was “just kind of holding it at arm’s length.” Years later, he says, “By virtue of having a little more maturity and confidence in what I can do, I’ve been able to look more steadfastly at their achievement. And what I see foremost is the absolute seriousness with which they undertook their respective tasks, without apology, and always with a belief that they were trying to connect with the world and make the world appear vividly.” He continues, “If you like, it’s that naive, direct faith in representation to give you the world, to make it present. I think I was able to accept and acknowledge that as part of the way I think by virtue of being willing to come so near what they really believed. It’s almost like a religion of art.”

If the preceding generation helped inspire this sort of personal/professional epiphany for Nemerov, the next generation, his daughter’s Lucy, nine, and Anna, seven, also merit credit for the sharpened perspective. “Having children, I think, it just changes the way you think of the world,” he says. “It makes you more aware of the preciousness of life and a little bit less willing to be skeptical or to look askance at the wonders of something that is present before you.”

Nemerov’s wide-ranging intellect and openness to aesthetic experience come to bear on his scholarly work where, as a historian of both art and American culture, he is driven to render the past vividly present. His 2010 book *Acting in the Night: Macbeth and the Places of the Civil War* (University of California Press), examine the tragic Shakespeare’s tragedy staged in Washington, D.C., a production that President Lincoln was on hand to view.

continued on page 59
While Rachel Comey ’94 worked at her first big design job at the fashion label Theory, she moonlighted on her own small line of men’s button-down shirts, not thinking to inform her boss of the sideline. But when *Time Out New York* sent a photographer to a small show then ran a large photo in the next issue, word was out.

Her boss took one look at the magazine and fired Comey. “He said, ‘Why didn’t you come to me?’” she remembers. “I found out later that he really liked to help young designers get started.”

Still, getting axed had an unforeseen benefit for her career—an unemployment check. That gave Comey enough money to get by and enough time to dig deeper into design and launch her own fashion line. Ten years later Comey’s small label not only still exists, a miracle in the fashion business, but thrives. She’s become known for non-trendy designs in eye-catching prints that make for a hip librarian look. Her clothes are sported by...
t insurance.

Comey, however, did not make much of an impression on either professor at first, if only because she was so quiet, “not one of the cool kids,” as Schneider says. Then Comey turned in her first assignment in Schneider’s

sculpture class using found objects, a mirror framed by feather pillows. “It just surprised me so much, this radical use of soft pillows,” Schneider says. “From that point on it was clear that she was a more visionary student than others.”

After graduating, Comey spent a few years in and around Burlington. She wanted tables in a grannyskirt and then landed a job at Jager Di Paola Kemp Design, first as a receptionist and then as the first director of the advertising/marketing firm’s Exquisite Corpse Gallery.

Comey continued to make sculpture during those years, but increasingly thought beyond the studio. She designed a line of novelty underwear. She created costumes and stage props for then-boyfriend Eugene Hutz of the gypsy punk band Gogol Bordello.

“At the time I was being called a hipster,” Comey says. “I thought I did twenty things at once before,” Comey says of being a working mom. “Now it’s double time.”

Then in December she moved her crew from their longtime, cave-like Tribeca digs to a space three-times bigger (and with amenities like a bathroom) on an especially busy stretch of South Broadway in NoHo. Little more than a month after the move came New York’s fall fashion week. No wonder Comey and her staff have yet to even decide where their desks, when they get them, will go.

Comey has a petite beauty, somewhat like the French actress Audrey Tautou, contrasted by a broad smile and a hearty laugh. Her face is wrought of strong lines, her clothes, in the boxy yet loose shapes, that would flat-ter the average woman. “My design comes from a very pragmatic view rather than from a red carpet glamour place,” she says. “It took a few years for me to get interested, to not see it as being frivolous,” she says.

Balancing the business side and her creative work doesn’t seem to faze Comey. She loves working with manufacturers, pushing them to make unusual fabrics, such as printing a cable knit sweater pattern on a delicate chiffon or hand painting on a cotton. The designer finds inspiration in the world around her, at bookstores or flea markets, but fabrics are her creative building blocks. Only once she’s decided on them, which are all custom made, does she start designing the garments just as when she made sculpture, materials remain all impor-tant to her.

Around her hang samples of each of her collections from the past ten years. There isn’t a sculpture in sight. Comey kept none of them, just some prints from her student days, and hasn’t made one since she launched her label. She doesn’t miss it. Making sculptures isn’t that different from making garments, she says, and those she has racks and racks of, and racks more to make.

fetching props. She and Hutz rented an apartment on the Lower East Side for $400 a month. “We had to pay in cash, that kind of place,” she says. Comey kept making sculpture as well as props and costumes for Hutz’s band. She had yet to set her sights on fashion. “It took a few years for me to get interested, to not see it as being frivolous,” she says.

Her costumes for Hutz drew requests for other one-of-a-kind garments, which eventually led to the job at Theory. After Theory, with her unemployment checks in hand, Comey stuck with men’swear for her first few collections. Then, after learn-ing women were buying her men’s shirts in extra-small sizes, Comey added women’s wear and her down-to-earth shoes. Still, it took Comey, who juggled credit cards to finance her company, six years to turn a profit. “I never realized it would take that long,” she admits.

Early on Comey got tagged a hipster favorite, with live music at her shows and her vaguely vintage frocks with a contem-porary twist that anyone could wear, and it has stuck. Throughout her collections, there’s an ease in her clothes, in the boxy yet loose shapes, that would flat-ter the average woman. “My design comes from a very pragmatic view rather than from a red carpet glamour place,” she says. "It took a few years for me to get interested, to not see it as being frivolous," she says.

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Twenty years ago, the UVM women’s basketball team opened the 1991-92 season by beating Rhode Island, 75-45, in a game played before a Kingston crowd so small no one bothered to record the attendance. Yet that Catamount victory was a quiet landmark, the first step on a journey that would transform the place of women’s basketball at the University of Vermont.

Vermont marched through that winter stacking victories like cordwood. By mid-January, UVM stood as the only undefeated team in Division I women’s basketball. A season that began with crowds so sparse the university opened only one side of the bleachers at Patrick Gymnasium ended with fans standing for hours in sub-freezing temperatures to buy tickets. Over the course of four months, a program largely unknown in its own community became the darlings of an entire state and part of the national conversation in women’s college basketball. In March, the Cats’ 29-0 record earned an invitation to the NCAA tournament, a first for both the school and the North Atlantic Conference.

Against all odds, Vermont duplicated its undefeated regular season the very next year. But the 1991-92 Catamounts stand alone. They are the benchmark against which all others are measured. Four players and the head coach have been inducted into UVM’s Athletic Hall of Fame. Over the last two decades, the members of that team have forged careers in engineering, accounting, coaching, town government, and college administration.

by Andy Gardiner G’75

[Image: Looking back on a historic season]
They have married and become mothers. And beyond even the tight bonds formed among teammates, they have remained close friends and colleagues. The 1991-92 season endures as a touchstone in their lives.

“That group of players was a team. As much as their talent, that was what made them successful,” says their head coach, Cathy Inglese. “To look at them now and see how they have stayed together and how connected they are, that to me is the epitome of coaching success.”

RAISING THE BAR

Inglese had a hard time tempering her excitement as the season began and I remember Carrie LaPine asking why we couldn't put making the NCAA tournament up on the board.” Turnbull says. “None of us had even thought of that before.”

While LaPine’s question kicked the team’s level of aspiration up a notch, a January run through stiff competition in a tournament at Central Florida made that sense of potential real.

“I remember thinking after we won the Central Florida tournament that we had really taken another step as a team,” Niebling says. “We felt we could be at another level instead of just grinding out game after game. We were just ready to start pounding people.”

FILLING THE GYM

The wins kept coming as January ran into February. Vermont had become a team,” Niebling says. “We felt we could be at another level instead of just grinding out game after game. We were just ready to start pounding people.”

The over-arching goal that fall was to beat Maine and become mothers. “People were stopping you in the supermarket to talk about the game and know more about the team. Little kids would ask for your autograph,” Turnbull says. “No
“Opening up the bleachers, receiving votes in the national polls, being the only undefeated team in the country—so many things were happening that we hadn’t planned on.”

—Head Coach Cathy Inglese

VERMONT’S TEAM

But the storybook season would not have a storybook end. Turnbull still has not been able to bring herself to watch the film of Vermont’s loss to George Washington in its NCAA debut.

UVM had bolted to a seventeen-point first half lead only to fall behind by ten in the second half when the Colonials kept pounding the ball inside to their towering center. But the Catamounts rallied and had the ball for the game’s final possession, trailing by a point—then a heartbreaking turnover and GW killed the remaining seconds.

“I thought, win or lose, look at what we have accomplished,” Turnbull says. “We sat there thinking, what do we do now?”

Two busloads of fans had traveled to Washington, D.C., for the tournament game, and back in Vermont several hundred supporters gathered at Burlington International Airport to greet the team on its return.

“I thought, win or lose, look at what we have accomplished,” Inglese says. “All these people are getting such joy and pleasure out of watching our team. We changed the attitude of what women athletes could do.”

Niebling has given a great deal of thought to the legacy of that team and the bond the players still share.

“It was the community’s team and it was great that we shared it with so many people,” she says. “It took an unwavering commitment from a lot of people, starting with Cathy. It didn’t just magically happen.

“Looking back, we had such a level of trust and respect for each other that it became a transformative experience. Maybe it’s a comfort level, maybe it’s a defining-who-you-are level, but we have been through so much together that you feel you can just call each other up and it’s still like you’re sisters. I feel very fortunate to be a part of that.”

LISTENING to the STARS

story & photography by Joshua Brown

T IS ALMOST NIGHT on the island of Puerto Rico. Astronomer Joanna Rankin raises her head toward the sky. A few of the brightest stars shine through blue cracks in a ragged dome of gray clouds. To her back, a jungle throbs with the insistent call of frogs. In front of her, a giant bowl made of perforated metal dips steeply and rises on the other side of the valley, a thousand feet away. It looks like a colossal contact lens dropped from outer space.
This is the reflecting dish of the Arecibo Observatory: the largest radio telescope in the world, located in Puerto Rico due to ideal natural conditions, a sinkhole in the limestone hills over which to suspend the dish. Rankin has been coming here to study stars since she was a graduate student in the 1960s. Now she brings her own students here to, as she says, “get their hands on the wheel.” Tonight, she stands next to one of the three concrete towers that surround the dish, chatting amiably in the fading pink light with her partner, Mary Fillmore, and three undergraduates from the UVM physics department: Isabel Kloumann ’10, Mateus Teixeira ’11, and Stephanie Young ’11.

Above them, 450 feet over the center of the reflecting dish, floats an impossible-looking metal lattice triangle. Suspended by cables from the three towers, it looks like some child’s fantasy airship made from an erector set—except it weighs nine-hundred tons. From the underbelly of this contraption dangles a huge antenna and a flattened silver ball sixty feet across, the telescope’s Gregorian dome.

“I’ve never lost sight of my privilege in using this instrument,” Rankin says, again turning her head skyward, “to come here and have a kind of one-way conversation with nature that almost no one else can.”

What Rankin listens for in this conversation are the sounds of pulsars—one of nature’s strangest objects. And what she hears from these unlikely stars may help to prove one of Albert Einstein’s most outlandish theories: the existence of waves in the fabric of space itself. But even if the sky were perfectly clear tonight, the pulsars Rankin has come here to study would not be visible. Instead, she relies on the staggering sensitivity of this instrument, to come here and have a kind of one-way conversation with nature that almost no one else can. “I’ve never lost sight of my privilege in using this instrument, to come here and have a kind of one-way conversation with nature that almost no one else can.”

Tonight, she stands next to one of the three concrete towers that surround the dish, chatting amiably in the fading pink light with her partner, Mary Fillmore, and three undergraduates from the UVM physics department: Isabel Kloumann ’10, Mateus Teixeira ’11, and Stephanie Young ’11.

“Arecibo Observatory’s control room, tuning in pulsars. They’ve been allotted about three hours to run the telescope. The place looks like a cross between the bridge from Star Trek and the nurse’s station in an intensive care unit. Behind a curving bank of double-stacked computer screens—filled with pulsing graphs and long rows of numbers—a two-story window looks out on the telescope. From speakers

“Pulsar” is a contraction for “pulsating star”—but they’re actually more like a lighthouse. As a pulsar spins—or more accurately because a pulsar spins, like the universe’s most powerful electrical generator—it shoots out two cones of radio emissions from several hundred miles above its bogglingly powerful magnetic poles. Then this dual beam sweeps across the cosmos for hundreds or thousands of years, until it happens to shine on Earth, and a few of its photons chance to fall on a reflector in a limestone sinkhole in a Puerto Rican forest—where this radio energy appears as a methodical flash in a telescope tuned to the right frequencies.

“At first, astronomers thought pulsars might be aliens. In 1967, an enterprising graduate student at Cambridge University named Jocelyn Bell was baffled by the extreme regularity of highly focused radio wave bursts she accidentally discovered coming in from one point in the Milky Way. On then off—every 1.3 seconds. Nothing like this had ever been observed in the heavens; nothing like it had even been imagined. She dubbed the source LGM-1, for “little green men.” Had she made contact? The extraterrestrial messages turned out to be radio bursts from a pulsar. No bright glowing ball of gas like our home-star, pulsars are the burnt-out cores of a moderately large star that has consumed all its fuel. With no more outward pressure from the burning hydrogen, the star suddenly collapses on itself and then rebounds, blowing off its outer layer in a spectacularly violent explosion. Compressed by the explosion and gravity, what remains is a sphere so dense that its atoms degenerate into naked neutrons and exotic particles smashed on top of each other in unearthly layers that contain about a billion tons per square centimeter.

“Pulsars are about the size of a small city, like Burlington—maybe ten miles across,” Rankin says, “with mass comparable to or somewhat greater than the sun.” Compared to a black hole, a pulsar is a kind of scrawny cousin not quite massive enough to fall into complete light-sucking density. Still, a sugar cube of this star-stuff would weigh more than all the people on Earth.

And, like a twirling figure skater who suddenly pulls her arms in and starts spinning much faster, this tremendous compression of mass during the formation of a pulsar sets it spinning so fast it challenges our Earth-bound conception of speed. A “regular” pulsar will spin several times per second, but another family of pulsars gathers additional speed by pulling in gas from another star nearby. These so-called millisecond pulsars can spin as fast as seven hundred times a second, nearly one-quarter the speed of light.

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Two days later, Rankin and one of her students, Isabel Kloumann, are in the Arecibo Observatory’s control room, tuning in pulsars. They’ve been allotted about three hours to run the telescope. The place looks like a cross between the bridge from Star Trek and the nurse’s station in an intensive care unit. Behind a curving bank of double-stacked computer screens—filled with pulsing graphs and long rows of numbers—a two-story window looks out on the telescope. From speakers
on the wall, a soft repetitive beeping fills the air, sound- ing a bit like Arecibo’s nighttime frogs. It’s the noise of motors and gears on the telescope’s platform, moving overhead to follow a star.

Rankin and Kloumann have almost finished a forty-minute run of having the telescope track a faint pulsar named, without even a whiff of poetry, B1944+17. “So, we should make a move to a new star,” Rankin says, and then looks through the top of her glasses with a smile. “Do you want to drive?”

“I’d love to, yes,” says Kloumann and Rankin pushes back her chair so that her student can get to the keyboard.

Kloumann begins to enter instructions into the com- puter and soon the massive telescope outside starts mov- ing to her commands, the Gregorian dome ponderously sliding along its curving track as the whole circular base rotates. Soon radio waves from B1944+17 will begin sliding along its curving track as the whole circular base rotates. Soon radio waves from B1944+17 will begin sliding along its curving track as the whole circular base rotates. Soon radio waves from B1944+17 will begin sliding along its curving track as the whole circular base rotates. Soon radio waves from B1944+17 will begin sliding along its curving track as the whole circular base rotates. Soon radio waves from B1944+17 will begin sliding along its curving track as the whole circular base rotates. Soon radio waves from B1944+17 will begin sliding along its curving track as the whole circular base rotates. Soon radio waves from B1944+17 will begin sliding along its curving track as the whole circular base rotates. Soon radio waves from B1944+17 will begin sliding along its curving track as the whole circular base rotates. Soon radio waves from B1944+17 will begin sliding along its curving track as the whole circular base rotates. Soon radio waves from B1944+17 will begin sliding along its curving track as the whole circular base rotates. Soon radio waves from B1944+17 will begin sliding along its curving track as the whole circular base rotates. Soon radio waves from B1944+17 will begin sliding along its curving track as the whole circular base rotates. Soon radio waves from B1944+17 will begin sliding along its curving track as the whole circular base rotates. Soon radio waves from B1944+17 will begin sliding along its curving track as the whole circular base rotates. Soon radio waves from B1944+17 will begin sliding along its curving track as the whole circular base rotates. Soon radio waves from B1944+17 will begin sliding along its curving track as the whole circular base rotates. Soon radio waves from B1944+17 will begin sliding along its curving track as the whole circular base rotates. Soon radio waves from B1944+17 will begin sliding along its curving track as the whole circular base rotates. Soon radio waves from B1944+17 will begin sliding along its curving track as the whole circular base rotates. Soon radio waves from B1944+17 will begin sliding along its curving track as the whole circular base rotates. Soon radio waves from B1944+17 will begin sliding along its curving track as the whole circular base rotates. Soon radio waves from B1944+17 will begin sliding along its curving track as the whole circular base rotates. Soon radio waves from B1944+17 will begin sliding along its curving track as the whole circular base rotates. Soon radio waves from B1944+17 will begin sliding along its curving track as the whole circular base rotates. Soon radio waves from B1944+17 will begin sliding along its curving track as the whole circular base rotates. Soon radio waves from B1944+17 will begin sliding along its curving track as the whole circular base rotates. Soon radio waves from B1944+17 will begin sliding along its curving track as the whole circular base rotates. Soon radio waves from B1944+17 will begin sliding along its curving track as the whole circular base rotates. Soon radio waves from B1944+17 will begin sliding along its curving track as the whole circular base rotates. Soon radio waves from B1944+17 will begin sliding along its curving track as the whole circular base rotates. Soon radio waves from B1944+17 will begin sliding along its curving track as the whole circular base rotates. Soon radio waves from B1944+17 will begin sliding along its curving track as the whole circular base rotates. Soon radio waves from B1944+17 will begin sliding along its curving track as the whole circular base rotates. Soon radio waves from B1944+17 will begin sliding along its curving track as the whole circular base rotates. Soon radio waves from B1944+17 will begin sliding along its curving track as the whole circular base rotates. Soon radio waves from B1944+17 will begin sliding along its curving track as the whole circular base rotates. Soon radio waves from B1944+17 will begin sliding along its curving track as the whole circular base rotates. Soon radio waves from B1944+17 will begin sliding along its curving track as the whole circular base rotates. Soon radio waves from B1944+17 will begin sliding along its curving track as the whole circular base rotates.

In these pulses is the raw material for months of future analysis by Rankin and her students. And much of what has been learned about pulsars in the last four decades has been from radio data gathered, just like what Rankin and Kloumann are doing, here at the Arecibo Observa- tory, a facility of the National Science Foundation.

“But there is much that remains mysterious,” Rankin says. “We have a very good cartoon,” she says, “we know that pulsars tap their rotational energy—somehow—and turn it into radio waves.”

“But we don’t exactly understand the emissions processes,” she says, “is it more like a laser or clouds of particles?”

To even get to the cartoon stage of understanding, astrophysicists like Rankin have tried to decipher the language of emissions that different kinds of pulsars pro- duce. And her students do the same.

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When you shine a flashlight on the wall, some parts are bright, some are dim. Ditto for pulsar emissions. The radio beam surges and shifts like a rotating carousel of lights. “The devil is in those details of the pulse’s varia- tions and geometry,” says Rankin.

Or consider pulsar B1944+17 that Kloumann has been studying on her own for several years. She will be presenting a scientific paper on this star here at the observatory in a few days—in a conference dubbed the “Fab Five Fest,” to honor five astronomers, including Rankin, who have been the leading pulsar scientists at Arecibo over the years. Kloumann will tell them how B1944+17 sometimes just turns off. And no one is exactly sure why.

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“All of us in Joanna’s group, we’re looking at these really unusual stars that don’t fit the per- fect model,” Kloumann says. “They test the bounds of the theory—which is what you always should do in sci- ence: push the limits of the theory.”

Over the years, with funding from the National Sci- ence Foundation, Rankin has brought many crews of students to Arecibo. “They’re my pulsar mafia,” she says with a deadpan look and then laughs, “watch out for astronomers.” Some of the students do go on in astronomy. Isaac Backus ’11 came back for a summer internship at the observatory and then onto another post at a telescope in India. He’s about to begin a doc- torate in physics at the University of Washington. Megan Force ’09 G’11 came to Arecibo with Rankin and is now enrolled in a doctoral program in astrophysics at Dartmouth. And this is Kloumann’s second trip to the tele- scope. She has leveraged her training in astronomy and applied mathemat- ics into a slot as a doctoral student at Cornell.

Rankin, and several of Kloumann’s other professors, describe her as one of the finest students they’ve taught. Winner of a Gold- water Scholarship and other awards, she’s first author on a publication in the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astro- nomical Society and is a co-author on a forthcoming article in the journal PLoS One.

In her turn, Kloumann raves about Rankin. “Joanna is a pulsar goddess,” Kloumann and the other phys- ics students say several times during the Arecibo visit. “She’s a fantastic mentor who is there when you need her and leaves you alone when you don’t.”

Tonight, Rankin and Kloumann are tutoring a some- what plodding student of physics. They’re explain- ing to me, for a second time, how a better theory of pul- sars may, in turn, help confirm one of Albert Einstein’s most intriguing predictions: the existence of gravita- tional waves.

In 1916, Einstein put forth his general theory of rel- ativity and that was the end of Western science’s two- hundred-year trip on Isaac Newton’s leaking boat. In the first great scientific revolution of the twentieth century,
Einstein demonstrated that space and time flow together—that they are, really, as physicists now say, “spacetime.” Equally strange, Einstein demonstrated that this spacetime, “like a vast sheet of rubber,” says Kloumann, can be bent by matter and energy.

And it’s this bending, these dimples and depressions in this substanceless sheet, that are responsible for gravity. In Isaac Newton’s universe, the moon and Earth simply attract each other. In Albert Einstein’s universe, the moon falls into the depression the Earth has made in the fabric of spacetime. And the flow of time, too, slows down as spacetime is warped near massive objects, like Earth, or, far more so, stars.

From this general theory, Einstein conjectured that when two massive objects, say two black holes, “go spinning around each other like a whirling dumbbell,” says Kloumann, “it’s like never having seen light before.”

“So small, so small, so small,” says Rankin. Problem is, gravitational waves are small.

“For me, it’s difficult to imagine, and that’s why, though they were indirectly confirmed in 1993, they have never been directly observed,” Rankin says. “Some astronomers anticipate the invention of gravitationally enhanced atomic clocks. Scientists can now show that, about five hundred light-years away, the pulsar J0437-4715 spins on its axis every 5.757445183 ± 0.0000007 milliseconds—give or take a pinch.”

And that accuracy—and more—will be necessary to detect gravitational waves. Which is what a consortium of U.S. and international astrophysicists, including Rankin, aims to do. The group, NANOGrav, is assembling a selection of highly precise pulsars in many parts of the sky and is timing the arrival of their pulses for years.

“Exceedingly tiny, tiny, tiny,” says Kloumann. So small that a passing gravitational wave would stretch this magnitude—at the speed of light.

“To detect gravitational waves is in some sense the missing link of Einstein’s theory of general relativity,” says Rankin. Problem is, gravitational waves are small.

“Equally strange, Einstein demonstrated that space and time flow as spacetime. “A bit like ripples from a pebble tossed into a pond,” she says.

For Rankin, they have never been directly observed.

Here’s where pulsars may help. To understand how, consider another freakish aspect of these stars: they are the universe’s best clocks. In 1967, Jocelyn Bell discovered that her little green men didn’t flash every 1.3 seconds, they flashed exactly every 1.337 seconds. No, every 1.33728 seconds... and when she and her professor were done calculating they realized that the finest human-made clocks of the day were not accurate enough to time this strange signal.

Because of their extreme density and enormous speed, pulsars turn out to be a nearly perfect flywheel—and this stability makes the arrival of each pulse so regular that some pulsars rival or exceed the precision of human-made atomic clocks. Scientists can now show that, about five hundred light-years away, the pulsar J0437-4715 spins on its axis every 5.757445183 ± 0.0000007 milliseconds—give or take a pinch.

“If gravitational waves can be detected, then the location and strength of their sources can be calculated. And that, Rankin thinks, could be as revolutionary as Galileo’s invention of the optical telescope. “Being able to detect gravitational waves opens up a whole new equivalent spectrum,” she says. “We’ll be able to study gravitational radiation as well as electromagnetic radiation.”

Some astronomers anticipate the invention of gravity telescopes that will be able to look at spinning black holes, cracks in the universe called cosmic strings, and deeper into space than the most-distant quasars now visible. Some speculate about revealing new galaxies of invisible stars made from exotic dark matter. Perhaps some member of Joanna Rankin’s pulsar mafia will, like Jocelyn Bell in 1967, make the next unexpected discovery. “Who knows what we’ll find out there,” says Kloumann. “It’s like never having seen light before.”

“Pulsars are highly precise, but they’re not perfectly precise,” Kloumann says. Sometimes pulsars appear to have starquakes. These kinds of glitches and the variations within single pulsars that Rankin studies are one form of noise that need to be accounted for in the NANOGrav models—so the team can pick out the puny voice of gravity from the roaring din of the cosmos.

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“To detect gravitational waves is in some sense the missing link of Einstein’s theory of general relativity.”

—Astronomer Joanna Rankin
had their faces painted. No matter what your age or inclination, there was something for you—campus historic tours, lake cruises, an alumni art show, a 175th anniversary Greek Gala celebration, exhibits at the Fleming Museum, and a Fall Fest between Bailey-Howe and the Davis Center with the authentic look and feel of a Vermont county fair.

The runners in attendance can forever boast that they were there for the first lap on UVM’s new track facility on the Archie Post complex. And speaking of running, Roger Zimmerman, Class of 1961, crossed the finish line on his 166-mile 50th Reunion “Payback Run” from his hometown in Bethel, Maine, to raise money for scholarships.

The annual Scholarship Luncheon provided poignant examples of the power of giving, including words from and about UVM students benefiting from gifts in memory of the alumni who perished in the World Trade Center attacks of a decade ago, and the announcement of a new $1 million gift to scholarships from alumnus Don McCree ’83 and his wife, Gabby.

Even the weather did its best to cooperate in orchestrating a weekend that “couldn’t have been better,” according to the organizers.

Check VQ on-line for a slideshow and more on alumni award winners.

alumni.uvm.edu/vq

ONLINE EXTRA

Roger Zimmerman ’61 (center) takes a well-deserved rest after his “Payback Run”; something for everyone at a festive fall weekend in October.
John Dewey, UVM Class of 1879, famously averred, “Education is not preparation for life. Education is life itself.” He would have been pleased to see how his dictum has been put into practice by John and Helen Newton ’63 of Swanton, Vermont, for whom learning has been a lifelong passion. Now retired, the couple’s enthusiastic interest in the world around them has found the perfect outlet in UVM’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

At their picture-postcard summer property on an idyllic Lake Champlain shore point, John and Helen speak with obvious pride of the Osher Institute’s St. Albans lecture series, which they helped organize some six years ago and today attracts several dozen of the area’s over-50 set each month. Topics this fall ranged from “Limits of Power in the Middle East” and “The Lake Champlain Bridge Project” to “Vermont Politics as We Enter the 2010 Election Year.” Speakers are drawn from an eclectic slate of authors, researchers, artists, scholars, political figures—people with a good story to tell and preferably a Vermont connection, says John.

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) was established in Vermont in 2003 when UVM received a grant from California’s Bernard Osher Foundation to develop courses and programs for Vermonters age 50 and over. The university received three subsequent grants followed by a $1 million endowment in October 2006 to permanently establish the institute at UVM. In addition to Burlington, institutes now exist in eight other Vermont communities—Brattleboro, Rutland, Montpelier, Newport/Derby/Stansfield, Springfield, St. Albans, Lamoille Valley, and St. Johnsbury.

The Newtons’ involvement with OLLI is one way they have chosen to express their belief in the importance of education and those who provide it. Another is the charitable remainder trust they established to benefit each of their alma maters—Norwich University, where John earned his degree in mechanical engineering, and UVM, where Helen earned both her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in English. Half of the trust will be used to establish the Helen W. Newton Scholarship Fund at UVM, with interest awarded annually to a student from Windham or Franklin counties in Vermont.

Helen spent more than three decades as an English teacher at Bellows Free Academy in St. Albans, where she estimates she taught upwards of 3,500 students over those years. She was the first in her family to earn a college degree and benefited from scholarship support herself to do so. “It seemed only fair that I should return it so someone else can use it,” she says. Then, like most good teachers, she summarizes. “I like teenagers. They’re some of the best people in the world. They’re idealistic. They still think they can change the world. Well, maybe one of them will.”
Record giving a “perfect start” for UVM Foundation

The University of Vermont had its best fundraising year in history for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, a result that UVM Foundation President and CEO Richard Bundy called “the perfect start for the UVM Foundation and just the first of what we expect will be many such milestones in the years ahead.” Donors to UVM contributed a grand total of $29,089,026 in support of UVM students, faculty, programs, and facilities during fiscal 2011. The total, a 4.5 percent increase over 2010, marked four consecutive years of growth in private giving to UVM and exceeded the University of Vermont’s best fundraising year in history for the fiscal 2010 following a precipitous decline of 11.9 percent in fiscal 2009.

“The impact of private giving spanned across the entire university, touching on everything from financial assistance for medical students to program support for the Asian Studies Outreach Program in the College of Education and Social Services, the “Greening of Allen” renovation project, scholarships and facilities for UVM Athletics, and operating support for UVM’s historic Morgan Horse Farm. Donors also generously supported UVM programs and initiatives that benefit Vermont seniors and children, such as the UVM Center on Aging and the Tarrant Institute for Innovative Education. Included in this year’s total is nearly $9 million in new endowed and current use financial aid support for students.”

UVM has fared well in the fundraising arena compared with national trends. According to data from the Council for Aid to Education, charitable contributions to the nation’s colleges and universities were roughly flat during fiscal 2010 following a precipitous decline of 11.9 percent in 2009, and overall, giving was 8 percent lower in 2010 than it was in 2006 in inflation-adjusted terms. Comparable data for fiscal year 2011 have not yet been released.

Giving to UVM has been strong in recent months. A $150,000 gift in April from the Grossman Family Foundation of Cos Cob, Connecticut, enabled the School of Business Administration to create a state-of-the-art Bloomberg Lab in Kalkin Hall. Bloomberg is a computer system that enables financial professionals to analyze real-time financial market data movements and place trades.

In June, alumnus Stephen Eshlin ’58 and his wife, Bille Lim, made a $100,000 gift in support of career services for students in the School of Business Administration. Designated to the School of Business Administration Career Services Fund, the gift is being used to help students develop their career management skills.

The Newton Library in UVM’s new Alumni House will be named in recognition of a $250,000 gift from alumnus Jeffrey Newton ’79 and his wife, Sarah. The elegant oak-paneled enclave in the expansive Queen Anne abode at 61 Summit Street is expected to be a central gathering and relaxation spot for visitors when they arrive on campus.

“...just the first of what we expect will be many such milestones in the years ahead.”

Giving’s impact:

- the Bloomberg Lab in Kalkin Hall and Newton Library in Alumni House

“...just the first of what we expect will be many such milestones in the years ahead.”

4.5 percent increase over 2010, marked four consecutive years of growth in private giving to UVM and exceeded the previous record of $28,631,577 set in 2007, the final year of UVM’s last comprehensive campaign.

“What’s been accomplished here is a tribute to our many generous benefactors and speaks very highly of the fundraising capabilities already in place at UVM as we continue to build our foundation and plan for the university’s next comprehensive campaign,” Bundy said.

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A $1.5 million gift announced in August from James Edward “Ted” and Danielle “Dans” Virtue of Rye, New York, is funding construction of a new synthetic turf field on the athletic campus. Virtue Field, as the new facility will be called, will serve as the home for the UVM men’s and women’s lacrosse and men and women’s soccer teams and will also be used for campus recreation activities. It is the first phase of a planned stadium project that will include grandstand seating for 3,000 spectators, game-day locker rooms, public restrooms, concessions, and storage space.

A highlight at the annual UVM Scholarship Luncheon during Reunion & Homecoming Weekend in October was the announcement of a $1 million commitment from Donald “Don” H. McCree ’53 and his wife, Gabrielle “Gabby” McCree, to support scholarships. The couple established the McCree Family Scholarship Fund with a half-million-dollar gift in 2006 and decided to double that commitment with a gift to be divided equally between their named scholarship and UVM’s general scholarship fund.

And also in October, as the Foundation’s first major fall weekend drew to a close, the university learned of a $500,000 gift from alumnus Bill Davis ’71 and Bill’s father, Robert Davis ’41, to name the Davis Ballroom in the top floor of the UVM Alumni House on Summit Street.

All told, it’s been a whirlwind of activity for the UVM Foundation even prior to its official operating start-up in January 2012. “We’re off to a tremendous start, and we’re just beginning,” said Bundy.

— Jay Goyette

UVM FOUNDATION BOARD

An integral part of the volunteer leadership of the UVM Foundation is the Foundation Leadership Council, whose members advance the foundation and university through their philanthropy, service, skills, network, knowledge, and strategic business acumen. The council provides a platform to engage the institution’s most passionate, influential, and accomplished alumni and friends. Council members are appointed by the UVM Foundation Board of Directors from the membership of the UVM Alumni Society by virtue of their previous philanthropic involvement and interest in advancing the University of Vermont. Any open seats on the Foundation Board of Directors are filled from the membership of the Foundation Leadership Council. Members inducted by the Board of Directors in October 2011 are:

- Dr. James Bettis ’69, MD ’73, Trustee Emeritus
- Physician, Alameda, CA
- Michael Carpenter P’93
- CEO, Aly Financial, Greenwhich, CT
- John Frank ’79, Vice Chairman, Inly Frank Import Co., Greenwhich, CT
- Grant Gund ’91
- Copperman Capital, Weston, MA
- Meg Guzman ’72
- Vice President, Indian Asset Management, Westport, CT
- Joan Kallen, Trustee Emerita, Bernaviil, NJ
- Dr. Samuel Labone
- Faculty, UVM College of Medicine, Stowe, VT
- Victor Livingston ’97, Managing Director, Morgan Stanley, South Hamilton, MA
- Wolfgang Meier
- Professor, UVM College of Arts and Sciences, Williston, VT
- Julie Simon Mann ’86
- Larkspur, CA
- Jeff Newton ’79
- Managing Director, Gemini Investors, Concord, MA
- Dr. Jacqueline Newman, MD ’54
- Professor, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY
- David Specter ’96
- President, Little Pond Management, New York, NY
- Dr. John Tampas ’51, MD ’54
- Physician, Goshen, VT
- Kenneth Wertman ’76
- Managing Partner, Greens Lodge Capital Markets, Demarest, NJ
- Charles Zabriskie ’53
- Wellesley Hills, MA

UVM FOUNDATION BOARD APPOINTS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
Going Greek

Founded in 1836, UVM’s Greek community this year celebrates its 175th anniversary. At Reunion, Homecoming, and Family Weekend, UVM fraternities and sororities feted the occasion with a gala, shared stories at a Greek Life history hour, and celebrated with chapter open houses, pig roasts, and pancake breakfasts.

It’s a past—and present—worth commemorating. While UVM’s Greek community may not be as large in size as neighboring institutions—about eight hundred students are members of the eight fraternities and sororities at UVM—Greek students impress with other numbers. Annually, they raise more than $90,000 for non-profits and complete about 22,000 hours of service, numbers that are “phenomenal for our size Greek community,” says Kimberly Monteaux, Student Life advisor to UVM’s fraternities and sororities.

Service and social justice are hallmarks of Greek Life at UVM. “Students who choose to join a fraternity or sorority are choosing not only to be UVM students, but they’re also choosing a path where they’re dedicated to philanthropy and service and personal growth,” Monteaux says. This commitment to make the world a better place spans the community’s 175 years. “There’s a rich history within UVM Greek Life of opening the doors to women and eventually students of color,” Monteaux says, noting that several UVM chapters splintered from or argued with their head-quarters over admitting minorities.

But as is the case nationally for fraternities and sororities, it’s a history not without its struggles. “Unfortunately, alcohol abuse and hazing still exists on campuses today,” Monteaux says, but the increased support colleges have committed to Greek Life—in the form of full-time advisor positions like Monteaux’s, for example—has helped provide students the education they need to make Greek Life a safer environment for everyone. UVM’s Panhellenic Council has not had to use its judicial board once in the past five years, an accomplishment that helped garner the group a national award for risk management this year.

Monteaux, a Northern Michigan University alumna and a member of Phi Sigma Sigma, is quick to sing the praises of fraternity and sorority life and what it can mean for students’ success. “As a first-generation high school graduate, without joining my sorority, there’s no way I would have graduated from college. And today I’m a doctoral student.” At UVM, she sees more evidence that Greek Life is thriving and, in turn, helping students thrive.

In September 1929 Fraser Drew entered UVM as the class baby at age 16. Now at 98 he fears he may be the class survivor. If anyone else is still out there, he would be happy to hear from him or her. His last 1933 word was from Betty Alken Martin several years ago. Fraser lives at 10 Harbridge Manor, Williamsville, New York, 14221, where he continues to write memoirs of his long life in Vermont, North Carolina, New York, Cuba, Quebec, Ireland, and Britain. Former students from Green Mountain College and from Buffalo State College, where he was the college’s first SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor, stay in touch with him as do UVM Lambda Iota members of the 1960s and later decades.

---from the class of ’88

---from the class of ’88
He had been in the hospital for five days. He was injured in two weeks in a rehabilitation center in Rutland. We thought it was going to be fatal until the day he died. After that point he had a good quality of life, considering his age and chronic illness. Unfortunately, he was not able to move from Rutland, living at age 91, and as he said “I am in town in a good way.” This was “classic” Red as those of you who knew him will attest. He will be missed by his family. His friends, and his community of Fair Haven. Patricia Pak Hollock was in attendance at his funeral service which made me very pleased. On to happenings in 1980 Eau Claire [where he] thought to have a fortune in the Bible, the Good Book. George bought a house in Rutland, with a group of friends, among whom Mary and I had met. She seems very contented there and we had the opportunity for a good visit. After lunch we joined a group of people who are writing their memoirs and who shared some of their writings with us. Art Wolf M.D. a UVM alumnus about the same vintage as we are and a good friend of Red from grade school days in Rutland, read from his writings. I found all of this fascinating and plan to embark on the same venture when life gets back to normal after celebrating a 90th birthday. Also we have a lot to say that is valuable. Needless to say, I will have to sharpen my writing skills before attempting this project. During my chat with Mary Beth I posed the same question to her that I had asked all of you. “Is there anything you would like to share with your classmates or that you think they might not know about you?” She responded that she and her husband Bob, Bloomer, at one point in their lives had great fun riding sedate motorcycles. I am sure with helmets and all. They evidently did a lot of “bushing” in that way. He initiated the “buddy” he joined her since she worried about him taking alone. He bought a friend 90, she got her license by practicing on her own, and through practice learned how to drive. Any more sharing out there? A final humorous comment. Mary Butler Bliss, my roommate at Grasse Mount my junior year, continues to be my most regular correspondent. She calls her “an old lady classicist” and says she has led a “blissed life.” She further states that she knew in the days of WWII and the war. I had the same photo of a “true believer Old 20.” However, to her chagrin, the Gamma and the Mu were both absent. She continued the proper office at UVM to report this oversight. In a very pleasant conversation with someone in the office it was informed that she was to call all UVM donors who have given $5,718. Question? Call Pat Brennan at 802-656-2848. Congratulations and sorry for the error! Send your news to—

47TH REUNION OCTOBER 5–7, 2012 alumni.uvm.edu/reunion

In your recent Green & Gold Newsletter you may have noticed that there was a discrepancy. The Class of 1944 had sixteen donors who gave $9,205.828. Congratulations and sorry for the error! We were suddenly honored to have a work of Phyllis Forn Feinel. Phyllis not only received her undergraduate degree from UVM, but also a master’s in education in 1999 and was a former faculty member in the College of Education. Send your news to—

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Our class was the first to have its 70th Reunion during Vermont’s 200th birthday. We had participated in the Liberation of the Rhone Delta and the Italian Campaign. We were singing hymns and he came out of the stage to dance for forty years. She is very proud that someone in the Class of 1943 reported If keep in touch! Send your news to—

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Henry Ford
due to the war and he has regained

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From there we travel to Needham, Massachusetts where the Chi family on our way to usual visit to Dennison Cape on God. We will return to Florida and to that night. And the net Connolly Leaper says: “We are very happy to see our returning Theta Chi’s also returned to Oregon in October. The other deciding factor was that a few of the nurses in the 50th reunion committee are Theta Chi’s, including Anna Annie Viets ’50, her husband, Norm Landry, grand- daughter Carlyn Landry and Carl’s friend Mary Webster. It was especially helpful when my sons, Jeff and Jack Murphy Landry, grand- daughter of Carl學生 who attended—so we hope you enjoyed the weekend as much as we did. A very special thank you to our own Carolin Deems, who with the assistance of her husband, steward Al Young, entertained as gogogo at the Saturday night dinner. A nice surprise was Carolin’s performance with Roger Taylor and Chuck Edlad! The Class of 61 is full of talented people and lucky for us, many came back and participated in our class reunion. What more could we ask? We also felt so grati- tude to Ray Pierce for donating his Nicaragua collection for our after- noon on beautiful Lake Champlain. What fun! And what about Roger Zimmerman’s “Payback Run!” from Maine to Vermont to show what his four Lunatic brothers are up to! One of us can surely be run on a custom, much more than one from state to another! Good job, Roger! It was also a beautiful way to start and happy to see our reunion at the Fifth House in October. The deciding factor was that a few of the nurses in the 50th reunion committee are Theta Chi’s, including Anna Annie Viets ’50, her husband, Norm Landry, grand- daughter Carlyn Landry and Carl’s friend Mary Webster. It was especially helpful when my sons, Jeff and Jack Murphy Landry, grand- daughter of Carl:Service Notes

From The American Ten 2012, 116 (Jan), 714-715.

Frank Diller ’61 (Ann), Mike Johns ’61 (Jan), Kevin Leary ’61 (Jan), and Steven ’62 (Jan).

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From The American Ten 2012, 116 (Jan), 714-715.
Advocate for engineering

Chances are, a young person planning a career in civil engineering is thinking more in terms of roads and bridges than chips and wires. So how did Janette Bombardier, who graduated from UVM in 1980 with a degree in civil engineering and went on to earn her master’s in the field four years later, find herself in the top executive’s seat at one of the world’s largest producers of semiconductors? “If I had ever thought when I graduated from UVM that this is what I’d be doing today… I didn’t even know this kind of job existed,” she laughs. “You know, when you’re twenty-two years old, you haven’t seen what there is to do. But an engineering background is such a solid background—there are just about to become empty nesters with their second daughter heading off to college. Jane lives in Sea Cliff, Long Island, and is working with a new national public television show called “The Artist Toolshed” (www.theartisttoolbox.com). “I miss UVM all the time and would love to reconnect with fellow classmates. You can find me on the UVM alumni group on LinkedIn.”

Susann M. Erlichman, executive director of the Mary and Burt Erlichman Honors Program, has lost track of all UVM friends and colleagues. She plays tennis regularly. She is by Alex Levin and is very interesting. Candace’s website is www. candacelovely.com. I came across a press release from Land’s End Business Outfitters blog, announcing that they had just signed a multi-year endorsement contract with the men of Chi Kappa international. Chi Kappa members used all the business acumen they learned at UVM in negotiating their deal. Their initial payment comes in the form of a line of men’s polo shirts with the Chi Kappa logo. Candace will be very popular on their trip to Prague, Paris and Brussels. Member of the International Fraternity include, Michael “Chico” Lague, A. “Alibi” Dimick, Fred “Gilles” Bussone, Bob “Smokie” Musser, Jim “Mary” Thomas, Albert “Sou’west” Anderson, Billy “GerDill” Dillon, Scott “Baldy” Baldwin ’76, Dennis “Red” Man, “Canedy” Canedy, “Baldy” Baldwin ’76, Dennis “Red- son” Heiko, John Fry, behind John’s home and the unusual collaborative garden complex they might be figures in a life sciences, especially the life sciences, at a very high rate,” she says, “but not in engineering. IBM hosts an annual summer camp for young women to boost their interest in technical careers, and Bombardier is a frequent speaker at career events in Vermont middle schools. “We try to influence them as a role model and show them there are really cool things to do as an engineer that they might be interested in.” It’s not just women who will meet the needs of the technical workforce, however. “We need a lot of engineers,” she says, “and we try to encourage everyone to look at STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) education. We think it’s a national issue.”

Her advice to young people? “Try to understand what engineering jobs are all about and how much fun they can be. I think all of us got into it because we like to solve problems and solve puzzles. That’s what an engineering job is.”

While Bombardier helps to build a tech savvy workforce for the future, many in Vermont wonder how secure are those thousands of IBM jobs that have become so much a part of the Vermont economy and quality of life? Does the corporation still have a bright future in Vermont? “The team here works hard every day to come up with new technologies and new products to ensure we will have a successful future,” she says. “There are plenty of people who twenty years ago said we weren’t going to exist ten years ago, and ten years ago that we wouldn’t exist today. But we’re a very innovative community of people. IBmers locally generate around six hundred patents a year, which is enormous. We’re very innovative at taking the technologies we have, extending them and creating new applications for them, such as developing new technologies, and doing it in a facility that’s here because of the Vermont outdoors.
76 Annales Ash writes “Well, I have never taken a test again in my life grace class, but I learned a huge lesson in our national capital on May 11. I’m proud to say I was arrested. That’s right, frisked, hand cuffed, noise put into my ears, put my hands with my body and six others to the Capital Hill jail, fingerprinted and placed in my very own cell for two hours—all for protecting democracy for the residents of Washington.” Catherine Barwick Matts writes “My brother, Ben,.Embed 22 years in the military service, travel- ing across the US and Canada with two boys, Erik and Geoffrey, are married and have two children in Connecticut. Our first born, Allison, is liv- ing in Minnesota and finishing up her doctoral degree. She is plan- ning to go into public policy and administra- tion and we’ve lived in Connecticut now for twenty-one years and are looking at retirement closely. Where does the time go?”

Kathleen Schmunez Miller had the following to share about our thirty-year reunion: as I was going through chemo after a bilateral mastectomy for breast cancer in 2006. Will finally finish treatment this fall though but hope to get our 40th. I retired to Black Moun- tain, North Carolina, with my husband, Steve, in 2009 after thirty-two years as a criminal with the Border Patrol in DC. We built our craftsman-style dream home in 2012 in the mountain town of Canton, NC 13617. Happy fall everyone! I haven’t heard from many of you in a long time. There is too much contact information for me to follow. I hope to hear from more of you before the next deadline arrives. Send your news to—

Pete Beeman
38 Border Street
Stirling, MA 01668
pbeeman@comcast.net
www.facebook.com/pete.morin2
www.pete.morin.wordpress.com

77 As the crisp fall days and bright colors give way to winter’s stark cold, it’s time to reflect on days past and to bide a farewell to friends no longer with us. Dr. Arthurd Campbell Dentzer passed away on November 30, 2016. I send my sincerest condolences to his family, friends, and loved ones.

Send your news to—

Michele Glaz Goodwin
57 Westland Market Court
Boston, MA 02107
http://myfacebookadut.com

78 Walter Ellis shares news of his book that was just pub- lished by The Johns Hopkins University Press entitled The Second Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia.

CLASS NOTES

76 37TH REUNION OCTOBER 5–7, 2012

alumni.uvm.edu/reunion

Announcements “Nancy” Daniele Hoff- man passed away on July 11, 2016. John Scambos 20 Cantitoe Street Keatsen, NY 10636

John Scambos 20 Cantitoe Street Keatsen, NY 10636

orvisit.on.net

37th reunion October 5–7, 2012

We strive to make every guest feel special, and to make our guests feel relaxed and comfortable. Whether you are planning a wedding, corporate dinner, or family reunion, we have the perfect venue for you.

Happy 30th Reunion!

Alumni Gallery

VQ

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Andre

to donate their time for a cause.
Designing Success

For Annie Selke ’85, the fabric of her life has been made up of literally just that—fabric. A lifelong lover of textiles, Selke began collecting material as a child and was enrolled in sewing lessons by age seven. Today, as the founder of home textile businesses Pine Cone Hill, Dash & Albert Rug Company, and Annie Selke Home, her spirited, color-infused wares can be seen regularly on the pages of shelter magazines such as House Beautiful, Better Homes & Gardens, Town & Country, Real Simple, and countless other popular titles.

For someone whose passion surfaced so early in life, Selke sensed during her first semester at UVM that something wasn’t quite right. “I thought I was going to be a political science... my [first] was that positive and so I thought OK, I like the idea of being an international foreign service officer because the fact that I don’t want to memorize the book of every GDP of every country... It was a reality check.” Selke quickly made tracks for the first semester at UVM that something was amiss during her time at UVM. The discovery unleashed lethal forces that threatened not only the revelation but a life’s work. According to the account of Jesus’s last days on Earth. The discovery unleashed lethal forces that threatened not only the revelation but a life’s work.

Selke’s foray into entrepreneurship came on the heels of a stint in New York City where she worked for Ferragamo, Lord & Taylor, Saks Fifth Avenue, and the Museum of American Folk Art. When she moved back to her native Berksire to start a family, Selke decided to venture out on her own. Sitting at her dining room table with a newly purchased industrial sewing machine, Pine Cone Hill was born. With an initial order for custom chair pads completed, Selke’s product development experience kicked into high gear with more ideas than her sewing machine could keep pace with—so many ideas that she added a garage to her home to accommodate her first employees.

That garage would certainly not be the last home for Pine Cone Hill. As she recalls, “I think we moved seven times in seven years.” In 2003, in response to customer demand for floor coverings to coordinate with Pine Cone Hill linens, Selke founded the Dash & Albert Rug Company. Annie Selke Home, a collection of licensed furniture and fabric, followed in 2008. The Annie Selke Companys, as they are now collectively known, employ a staff of eighty-six in the United States and forty more based in an office in India. With more than three thousand high-end retail partners, including Garnet Hill, Neiman Marcus, and Sundance, Annie Selke is on the road to becoming a household name.

Her recent publication, Fresh American Spaces, is what Selke hopes is the first of many books. As described in the introduction, “Fresh is the willingness to embrace new ideas, styles, and colors. ‘American’ means freedom of choice and freedom of expression.” With five viewpoints—everyday exuberance, cultured eclectic, happy pretty, neutral refined, and refined romantic—Selke demystifies her home décor design process by breaking it down into a practical step-by-step approach.

Fans can also look forward to her appearance in a year-long feature for Women’s Day magazine starting this month. “Fresh American Dream Makeovers” follows Selke as she helps women renovate their personal spaces during transitional times in their lives. “It’s a wonderful way of combining design and real life,” she says.

Even with new projects on the horizon, Selke is never far from her original inspiration. Stacks of textiles sit outside her office and she refers to them often. “I probably have about four thousand different antique document fabrics going way, way, way back... things that are probably from the 1900s to current day things, all ethnicities: Chinese, Indian, French, Italian. I have tons of different fabrics that I love looking at.” For Selke, loving what she’s looking at has made all the difference. “I do you what you love and what you’re interested in, that’s what gets you out of bed every morning for the rest of your life.” And when that bed is covered with sheets of your own design, that’s saying a lot.

—Kathleen W. Lamarre ’00

FAVORITE INTERIOR SPACE

The Marino Casino in Dublin, Ireland. It is the most charmingly sophisticated interior with perfect proportions.

INSPIRATIONAL ARTIST

Andy Goldsworthy because he works with nature to create extraordinary pieces, some permanent, some ephemeral.

FAVORITE COLOR (CURRENTLY)

Robin’s egg blue

HANGOUT IN BURLINGTON

Doolin’s on Main Street

UVM STUDY SPOT

The library or on my bed

HOME LIFE

I just put my daughter Charlotte on a plane to Tucson, Arizona, where she will spend a year as a wrangler at a dude ranch before she heads to Colorado State next fall to study equine science. I live with three funny and furry Clumber Spaniels—Dash, Daisy, and Emmet. They are spokesdogs for the Dash (one and the same) and Albert Rug company.

ANNIE SELKE ’85
Hello UVU Class of 1991,

Welcome to the UVU alumni magazine. Since this fall Vermont Quarterly issue, we have just celebrated our 15th year of publication! What a wonderful 15th year it has been! We've worked hard and paid attention to all of your news, thinking, and feedback. As we begin our 16th year, we have decided to make some changes to better serve our alumni. We will continue to bring you the most up-to-date information about our alma mater, UVM, and our classmates. We will also share news about alumni who have achieved great things and have contributed to the community. Thank you for your continued support of the UVU Alumni magazine. We look forward to serving you in the future.

Sincerely,
The Editors of the UVU Alumni Magazine

P.S. We would love to hear from you! Please send us your news and updates. We can be reached at alumni.uvm.edu/uvm-alumni-office

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Hello Classmates,

I am excited to announce that our class reunion planning is well underway. We have received many proposals for reunion activities, and we are currently working on the final details. We hope to have a fun and memorable time celebrating our class reunion. Please mark your calendars for our reunion, which will be held on Saturday, October 27, 2012, at the UVM Alumni Center. We will have a variety of activities planned, including a welcome reception, a class photo, and a class dinner. We also plan to have a special guest speaker, who will talk about their experiences since graduation.

Please save the date and look for more information about the reunion in the future.

Sincerely,
The Class of 1991 Reunion Committee

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Hello Classmates,

I am excited to announce that I have received a lot of positive feedback about our class reunion planning. Many of you have shared your ideas and suggestions, and we are taking them into consideration. We are currently working on the final details for the reunion, and we will have more information soon. Please mark your calendars for our reunion, which will be held on Saturday, October 27, 2012, at the UVM Alumni Center. We will have a variety of activities planned, including a welcome reception, a class photo, and a class dinner. We also plan to have a special guest speaker, who will talk about their experiences since graduation.

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People will sometimes say to me, “Wow, that’s such a de- pressive double whammy—McAlister and the Civil War. How much blather can I get?” Nemerov says with a slight smile. “But the point I make is that it was exhilarating to research and write that book,” and thus all the blather was well worth the effort. He notes, “I think students want someone to be passionate about the course, but suggests that undergraduates think otherwise as they continue to regard “bad words” in academic discourse as “bad words.”
Hello friends! We have lots of great news to share this quarter! Let’s kick it off with Charlie Brooks, who shared the news, “My wife, Sarah Brooks, gave birth to our first child, Quentin Richard Brooks, at Northwestern Memorial Medical Center in St. Albans.” Stephanie Butler wrote in with the following update: “I gave birth to a son in August 2006. He will be five years old this August. His name is Noah. I graduated with my second bachelor’s degree, a bachelor of science in nursing from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences in Worcester, Massachusetts in May 2011. I plan on becoming a registered nurse.”

Katie Bengtson and her husband, Jonathan Bengtson, welcomed their baby girl, Annelie. “Her husband, Jonathan Bengtson, and I welcomed our baby girl, Annelie in Maine. I had the pleasure of being a nurse-midwife. “I gave birth to our first child, Quentin Richard Brooks, at Northwestern Memorial Medical Center in St. Albans. ”

Lisa Howey was married on August 20 in Mt. Hood, Oregon. The ceremony took place on top of a mountain, with guests riding a gondola down the slope to the reception. UVM alumni in attendance included Jennifer Fife, Leah Starr Finch, Alexandra Murnau, David McAndrew, Garrett Suburns and Jane Trinett. On July 27, 2011, Andrew Denon Lulak married Catherine L. Harnish, age 45, at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida. The couple has begun their life together in Edmond, Oklahoma, where Andrew will be attending medical school at the University of Oklahoma. Catherine will continue her career working from home as assistant vice president for the Bank of America Merrill Lynch. The couple met at UVM in dorm mates in 2001.


Moments of Darkness 9.11.01
Bill Davison, professor emeritus of art, monotype with water-based pigments.
Welcome to The Lodge at Shelburne Bay and The Lodge at Otter Creek Adult Living Communities

Welcome to The Lodge at Shelburne Bay in Shelburne, Vermont and The Lodge at Otter Creek in Middlebury, Vermont.

The Lodges have established a core philosophy designed to cater to your every need. A world surrounded by beauty, security and spirit. A world you’ll explore, experience and cherish. There’s something special here and it’s just waiting for you. At The Lodges we offer a range of all-inclusive rental options that provide our residents with luxury, amenities and elegance—Spacious Cottages, Independent Living, Assisted Living apartments and The Haven Memory Care Programs.

There’s a deep and vibrant sense of community spirit that welcomes new residents, families and friends in every conceivable way. Staff and residents bond together and create a family atmosphere that’s special and unique to The Lodges.

At The Lodge at Shelburne Bay and The Lodge at Otter Creek it’s all about community. The only thing missing is you.