GORGEOUS NEUROSCIENCE MEETS STUDENT LIFE
Two days after a car accident put Josh Speidel, a star high school basketball player and prized UVM recruit, in an Indianapolis hospital with a serious brain injury, his future coach John Becker was at his bedside. What can a basketball coach say to the parents of a basketball player who lies next to them, appearing lifeless? Becker offered this: “We’re with your family. Josh is a part of us, whether he plays basketball or doesn’t. He’s a Catamount. We have a spot for him, whenever Josh can get to us.”

PHOTOGRAPH BY JAMIE SCHWABEROW
A Winning Strategy for UVM

In all of our pursuits—academic, athletic, and extracurricular—the University of Vermont’s core mission is to prepare students to be ethical leaders who serve the global community. Every day I see this mission in action in colleges and departments across UVM. As you will read in the inspiring story on page 22, this student-centered commitment is on display in our varsity athletics program as well.

By all accounts, our varsity Catamounts have been highly successful on the playing fields so far this academic year. The fall season was highlighted by the nationally ranked men’s soccer team’s advancement to the second round of the NCAA tournament. Senior Brian Wright became the top scorer in the nation (for Division 1) with ten goals and twenty-one assists. Men’s and women’s basketball teams have continued the winning momentum on the playing field. The women’s basketball team is headed by first-year head coach Jenny Vliet. For the men’s basketball team, head coach John Becker has his team ranked in the Top 25.

This momentum on the playing field carries a feature on this new facility. The summer issue of Vermont Quarterly will carry a feature on this new facility, which will be a wonderful resource for our students, alumni, and the wider Vermont community. As its core, the University’s central responsibility is to promote the wellbeing, and safety of our students as we support them in their successful educational journey through UVM. Our investments in scholarship, financial aid, great learning opportunities, and competitive facilities portends well for all of us.

—Tim Sladune
You Should Know

“We must recognize the importance of advancing polar science to understand how our world works. And, right now, because we’re pumping huge plumes of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, we really need to know how our world works.”

—Paul Bierman. The UVM geology professor’s most recent research publication on the Greenland ice sheet was widely covered by the media, from the BBC to Time Magazine.

Kristof Grina ’12 earned a place on Forbes’s “30 Under 30 Social Entrepreneurs of 2017” for his work co-founding Up Top Acres, transforming Metro Washington, D.C., rooftops into organic farms.

go.uvm.edu/grina

UVM’s Sustainable Entrepreneurship MBA moved up the Princeton Review rankings to the second spot among “Green MBA” programs.

SOLDIER-SCHOLAR
Cadet Kaelyn Burbey, a senior in the Honors College majoring in environmental engineering with a math minor, received the ROTC Legion of Valor Bronze Cross Award, given annually for achievement of scholastic excellence in military and academic subjects. Just thirteen cadets nationally receive the award.

UVM has long had strong study abroad programs. But a new step, joining the Institute of International Education’s Generation Study Abroad initiative, looks to raise participation 40 percent by 2020.
years, the faculty post at UVM is a return north forston and the University of Memphis for the past fourchoice awards at several others.

Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, in addition to audiencePhiladelphia Independent Film Festival and Reeling

The film

Gender Deviance in Music Performance

Riot Acts: Flaunting

length film, the documentary

and four years of hard work on his first feature-

ing musician (his principal instrument is stand-up

or whatever discipline. You need to have multiple

"I really love the idea of someone's artwork being

he has enjoyed that difference in some respects.

faculty at the beginning of the academic year, says

The new assistant professor, who joined the UVM

different perspective, that of the broader university.

The students in Madsen Minax's film classes bring a

FILM | Compared to his own undergraduate edu-
cation at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago,
the students in Madsen Minax's film classes bring a
different perspective, that of the broader university.

Early in his career, Minax juggled life as a tour-
ing musician (his principal instrument is stand-up bass),
the inevitable day jobs (barista to dog walker),
and four years of hard work on his first feature-
length film, the documentary Riot Acts: Flawing
Gender Deviance in Music Performance. The film
made a mark at independent film festivals from
2009-2011, earning best documentary prizes at the
Philadelphia Independent Film Festival and Reeling
Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, in addition to audience
choice awards at several others.

After stints at the Museum of Fine Arts in Hous-
ton and the University of Memphis for the past four
years, the faculty post at UVM is a return north for
Minax, a native of northern Michigan. He's happy to
be back in hiking and Nordic ski country, but
admits to some readjustment to the cold. A large,
kitschy rug depicting several majestic deer in a
snowy scene adorns the floor of his office. Asked if
it's homage to his homeland, Minax laughs. "No. I
just like it."

Other objects around his Williams Hall office are
truer revelations of career and character. Camera
and sound cables looped on the wall, black cases of
camera equipment, a guitar case and a small amp,
a bass drum kick pedal on the windowsill. Though
Minax doesn't perform much anymore as a musi-
cian, due to repetitive stress issues in his wrist, he
writes and performs all the music in his films.

Minax's latest feature-length film, Kaisos Dirt
and the Errant Vacuum, recently earned Best Feature at
the Indie Memphis Film Festival. The Memphis
screening was an unofficial premier, as Minax is
officially releasing the film in the Memphis area.

With Kaisos Dirt and other projects in various
stages of production, Minax continues a familiar
pattern, balancing features with shorter projects.
"I feel pretty exhilarated and accomplished when I
finish something that took four years to make;" he
says. "I try to hold onto that feeling for a little while.
Then I let that go and figure something else out."

Science for All Kids

EDUCATION | Leon Walls knows, loves, and
wants to transform the science class-
room. The associate professor of elementary
science education is working to change the way
we teach science, both by studying the
experiences of young science students of color and by finding ways to incorporate sus-
tainability and a sense of stewardship into the
teaching of science to our youngest learners.

Toward that end, Walls joined the Great Lakes Bioenergy Research Center's (GLBRC) Research Experience for Teachers Program last summer, conducting sustainable biofu-
sels research and developing curricula. Walls
immersed himself in an RET research project
investigating the details of the carbon cycle,
testing different types of soil substrates and
their capacities for keeping carbon in the soil.

"It's really thrilling to me to be in a science lab," Walls says. "The fact that I'm actually
working alongside these scientists, actually
making measurements, that's invaluable. To
know the actual procedures and processes,
we're inclusive of as far as science goes." Walls
and understand the practice of science and
scientists.

Children of color have been excluded,
marginalized, in science education, in envi-
nomental movements, and in sustainability
discussions," he says. "My focus in every-
thing that I do is transformation. We need to
change, to transform, how we teach science
and how we think about science and who we
are inclusive of as far as science goes."

Next up for Walls is a large-scale data col-
lection on children of color in the science
classroom—how they conceive of scientists
and how they understand science practices—
that he hopes will impact the way in which
his field, as well as teachers in classrooms
across the country, approach science educa-
tion. "No matter where I go," Walls says, "no
matter where I am, my heart is still always in
Milwaukee Public Schools, still with those
students."

TOURNEY TIME

As this issue of the magazine went to press, the Catamounts
looked ahead to potentially promising post-seasons on a
number of fronts.

MEN’S BASKETBALL was
unbeaten in America East league play, 21-5 on the
season, in early February, and
hoping to continue their winning ways through the
conference tournament to earn an NCAA Tournament berth.

MEN’S HOKEY was building a
strong season, rising as high as
#10 in the national rankings.

The WOMEN’S HOKEY team
was drawing crowds to
Gutterson, too—notching
record attendance and wins, 
holding third place in Hockey
East in early February.

The SKI TEAM's usual
dominance on the Eastern
Circuit was being tested by
Dartmouth, winners of the
season's first two carnivals.
New Englanders can get out
and cheer on the Cats as
UNH hosts the 2017 NCAA
Championships, March 1-11.
For the latest
Catamount sports reports:
Uvmathletics.com
For most of his life, Kevin Hughes has felt like an outsider. A loner as a child, the 65-year-old comedian struggled socially as a teenager and lacked friends as an adult, often offending people without knowing why.

It wasn’t until a few years ago, after one of his comedy shows, that he first realized he might be among the millions of undiagnosed adults with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

“A couple came up to me who were doctors and said, ‘What a marvelous way to use your autism for a career,’” recalls Hughes. “I called my wife and kids to laugh about it, but there was dead silence on the other end—until they finally said simultaneously, ‘Dad, that makes total sense.’” That night was the start of a painful three-year journey to self-diagnosis.

Hughes is not alone. Approximately 1.5 percent of all U.S. adults (about 4.8 million) are believed to have ASD, with many attempting to self-diagnose. A recent study in the journal *Archives of Psychiatric Nursing* explores the experiences of this population, seeking to help healthcare workers identify adults with ASD before they become depressed or harm themselves.

“Healthcare professionals must have an understanding of self-diagnosis to help individuals transition to formal diagnosis and to adequately educate, support, and screen this population for comorbidities,” says study author Laura Lewis, assistant professor in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. “Without knowledge of their diagnosis or supports in place, this undiagnosed population is likely at a higher risk of depression, anxiety, and suicide.”

Five major themes emerged from the qualitative study. These include managing self-doubt; a sense of belonging; understanding oneself; questioning the need for formal diagnosis; and feeling “othered.” Many study participants reported always “feeling different” and “isolated” as children, which continued into adulthood.

“I thought every child spent months alone in their backyard building a radio telescope,” says Hughes. “I got in trouble in second grade for writing a paper about being from another planet. Even as an adult, I’ve never belonged. I’ve lived in three cities for more than a decade each and had no friends in any of them. A lot of things made sense after reading Laura’s paper.”

Likewise, a majority of the study’s participants said they felt an immediate “fit” after finding out they might have ASD.

“Write a thesis or do an independent study. Find a project that is yours,” McIntosh suggests to incoming students. “You should look at college as something you do, rather than something that’s done to you.”

**MAP TO MONGOLIA**

On the eighth day, Simon McIntosh ’17 got off his horse and started walking. He was exploring a roadless mountain pass in the northernmost corner of Mongolia, near the border of Russia. To his east, Lake Hovsgol stretched for more than eighty miles. “Some people call it the Blue Pearl,” he says. “It’s stunning around the lake where the steppe grasslands and taiga forests meet the Siberian mountains.” In that region, nomadic Tsaatan people herd reindeer, and endangered saiga and Argali sheep roam. A few trucks and motorcycles meander through the grass and mud, cross the mountains, and descend into the Darkhad Valley, where there is no improved road, only rough tracks.

“Not that is changing,” McIntosh says. The Mongolian government has established new national parks in the area and built a paved road from the capital to Lake Hovsgol in 2013. The government now aims to build a paved road from the lake over into the remote valley “but the question is, when?” McIntosh says.

Helping to answer that question became McIntosh’s senior thesis—and took him to Mongolia for the summer of 2016. It was his second trip there to make maps in partnership with local park rangers and the Mongolian Ecology Center.

An environmental studies major in UVM’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences with a minor in geospatial technologies, McIntosh spent weeks trekking over five mountain passes with a Mongolian partner, and a pocketful of GPS equipment.

With support from the UVM Office of Undergraduate Research, a Simon Family Public Research Fellowship—and guidance from UVM professors Patricia Stokowski, Bob Manning, and Rick Paradis—McIntosh planned his independent research expedition.

“I thought every child spent months alone in their backyard building a radio telescope,” says Hughes. “I got in trouble in second grade for writing a paper about being from another planet. Even as an adult, I’ve never belonged. I’ve lived in three cities for more than a decade each and had no friends in any of them. A lot of things made sense after reading Laura’s paper.”

“I wanted to serve as a microphone to voices that were not being heard,” says Lewis. “I hope this research helps professionals and the public understand that, first of all, this group of individuals who are self-diagnosed exists; second, that their experiences and self-perceptions should not be dismissed; and finally, that healing is possible through understanding and awareness, whether that is facilitated by a professional diagnosis or not.”
Price of Poaching

ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS | In Africa, tens of thousands of elephants are killed by poachers each year. Now a new study shows that this poaching crisis costs African countries around $25 million annually in lost tourism revenue. “Conservation is often seen as a luxury,” says Brendan Fisher, an economist at UVM who co-led the new study, “but our work shows that it pays big to protect elephants.”

Comparing this lost revenue with the cost of halting declines in elephant populations due to poaching, the study determines that investment in elephant conservation is economically favorable across the majority of African elephants’ range. The research, undertaken by scientists at UVM’s Gund Institute for Ecological Economics, World Wildlife Fund (WWF), and the University of Cambridge, represents the first continent-wide assessment of the economic losses that the current elephant poaching surge (20,000-30,000 animals killed annually) is inflicting on nature-based tourism economies in Africa.

“While there have always been strong moral and ethical reasons for conserving elephants, not everyone shares this viewpoint. Our research now shows that investing in elephant conservation is actually smart economic policy for many African countries,” says study author Robin Naidoo, lead wildlife scientist at WWF and an affiliate of the Gund Institute.

“If you close your eyes and think about Africa, there’s an elephant in that picture,” says Fisher. “So it makes perfect sense that as elephants disappear off a landscape tourism tourists are less likely to visit those places.”

The research—using statistical modeling—shows that tourism revenue lost to the current poaching crisis exceeds the anti-poaching costs necessary to stop the decline of elephants in east, southern, and west Africa. Rates of return on elephant conservation in these regions are positive, signaling strong economic incentive for countries to protect elephant populations.

The number of roles for strong women has grown in the stories we’re watching—think Rey from The Force Awakens and Katniss from The Hunger Games—expanding the limited portrayals of female characters of the past. And these changes are likely to have ramifications on our political landscape, says Jack Gierzynski, political science professor.

His study, conducted with help from students in his “Political Effects of Entertainment Media” seminar, used clips from The Hunger Games, Doctor Who, Star Trek, and Battletear Galactica, in which characters exhibited either stereotypically male or female leadership traits, each with positive outcomes. Results showed that after watching these clips, viewers valued female leadership traits (like compassion and empathy) over male traits (decisiveness and self-confidence).

This was especially true for the Doctor Who clip, in which the male lead drew on empathy and forgiveness to prevent a war, scoring higher points than the clips showing a female lead using these traits. “It may be that we are more open to learning about the value of traits associated with women,” Gierzynski says, “only when they are shown to be effective by a man.”

Gierzynski points out, though, that acceptance of that gender fluidity doesn’t always flow both ways—and has created for women what he calls a double-bind. “Since most Americans value stereotypical male traits more than stereotypical female traits in executive leadership posts, women who vie for those posts must exhibit those traits,” he says. “When female candidates do that, they violate our subconscious normative expectations of how women are supposed to act, and we end up not trusting them.”

Ultimately, the study adds to growing proof that what we watch has deep impact on how we think. Gierzynski’s work, including his popular book about the effect of Harry Potter on Millennial support of Obama in 2008, is grounded in narrative transportation theory, which posits that when we become immersed in a story, and begin to engage with it as if it were real, it changes us—and our understanding of the world.

“There is some evidence that a change in the public’s notions of what makes a good leader has already begun,” Gierzynski says, “but this trend will need to continue in order to attain substantive gender equality in leadership.”

POLITICAL SCIENCE | Hillary Clinton’s stunning defeat in the 2016 Presidential election begs the question: when will the highest and hardest glass ceiling be shattered in the United States? While change is not yet coming to the nation’s political stage, it is under way on our screens, and new research reveals that the fiction we watch influences our gendered perceptions of what it takes to be an effective leader.

The research was published in the journal Nature Communications.
Warnings for Warming Lakes

ENVIRONMENT | New research suggests that Lake Champlain may be more susceptible to damage from climate change than was previously understood—and that, therefore, the rules created by the EPA to protect the lake may be inadequate to prevent algae blooms and water quality problems as the region gets hotter and wetter.

“This paper provides very clear evidence that the lake could be far more sensitive to climate change than is captured by the current approach of the EPA,” says Asim Zia, lead author of the new study and associate professor in Community Development & Applied Economics. “We may need more interventions—and this may have national significance for how the agency creates regulations.”

The study, led by a team of ten scientists from UVM and one from Dartmouth College, used a powerful set of computer models that link the behavior of social and ecological systems. Their results show that accelerating climate change could easily outpace the EPA’s land-use management policies aimed at reducing the inflow of pollution from agricultural runoff, parking lots, deforestation, cow manure, lawn fertilizer, pet waste, streambank erosion—and other sources of excess phosphorus that cause toxic algae and lake health problems.

The new lake model, with support from the National Science Foundation, integrates a much larger assembly of possible global climate change models and greenhouse gas pathways than the measures used in previous modeling. And the Vermont scientists delved deeply into the indirect and interactive effects of land use changes, “legacy phosphorus” that’s been piling up for decades in the sediment at the bottom of the lake, and other factors.

The new integrated assessment provides a powerful tool that goes far beyond understanding Lake Champlain. The overall model links together “the behavior of the watershed, lake, people and climate,” says Judith Van Houten, UVM professor of biology, director of Vermont EPSCoR, and co-author on the new study. This provides “a way forward to pull back the veil that often surrounds effects of climate change.”

The research was published in the journal Environmental Research Letters.

At her core, Katie Shepherd is a special education teacher. She believes that every child, and every adult, deserves the chance to learn and flourish in a diverse and sometimes challenging environment for people with disabilities.

As a faculty member in the College of Education and Social Services, Professor Shepherd takes great pride when CESS graduates launch themselves as educators who will make a difference in the world. Take Meg Ziegler ’15, for instance. A secondary ed major/special minor and Honors College student, she was awarded a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship last year. After conducting research with Shepherd that resulted in a co-authored journal article, Ziegler is now teaching English to children in northern Thailand, weaving in a cross-cultural pen-pal exchange program with kids she taught in Shelburne, Vermont, during her student teaching experience.

Shepherd’s expertise and influence extend beyond UVM and Vermont through her publications and current work as the project director for the U.S. Department of Education’s Transformative Leadership for Special Education Administrators.

This professor’s past work and future promise as both teacher and scholar was recently honored when Shepherd was invested as the University of Vermont’s first Levitt Family Green and Gold Professor.

Since President Tom Sullivan began his tenure at UVM, the university and the UVM Foundation have more than doubled the number of endowed faculty positions as a critical component of the Move Mountains campaign. President Sullivan notes how these endowed faculty positions serve as “magnets,” drawing and retaining the best and brightest faculty talent—not to mention attracting exceptional students.

In addition to Katie Shepherd, this fall Jane E. Knodell was endowed as the first Mark J. Zwynenburg Green and Gold Professor of Financial History. In December, two professors from the Robert Larner, M.D. College of Medicine participated in formal investiture ceremonies. Dr. James T. Boyd became the inaugural Robert W. Hamill, M.D. Professor of Neurological Sciences, and Dr. Philip Ades was invested as the first Philip Ades, M.D. Professor of Cardiovascular Disease Prevention.

Endowments Honor, Fund Educators

At her core, Katie Shepherd is a special education teacher. She believes that every child, and every adult, deserves the chance to learn and flourish in a diverse and sometimes challenging environment for people with disabilities.

As a faculty member in the College of Education and Social Services, Professor Shepherd takes great pride when CESS graduates launch themselves as educators who will make a difference in the world. Take Meg Ziegler ’15, for instance. A secondary ed major/special minor and Honors College student, she was awarded a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship last year. After conducting research with Shepherd that resulted in a co-authored journal article, Ziegler is now teaching English to children in northern Thailand, weaving in a cross-cultural pen-pal exchange program with kids she taught in Shelburne, Vermont, during her student teaching experience.

Shepherd’s expertise and influence extend beyond UVM and Vermont through her publications and current work as the project director for the U.S. Department of Education’s Transformative Leadership for Special Education Administrators.

This professor’s past work and future promise as both teacher and scholar was recently honored when Shepherd was invested as the University of Vermont’s first Levitt Family Green and Gold Professor.

Since President Tom Sullivan began his tenure at UVM, the university and the UVM Foundation have more than doubled the number of endowed faculty positions as a critical component of the Move Mountains campaign. President Sullivan notes how these endowed faculty positions serve as “magnets,” drawing and retaining the best and brightest faculty talent—not to mention attracting exceptional students.

In addition to Katie Shepherd, this fall Jane E. Knodell was endowed as the first Mark J. Zwynenburg Green and Gold Professor of Financial History. In December, two professors from the Robert Larner, M.D. College of Medicine participated in formal investiture ceremonies. Dr. James T. Boyd became the inaugural Robert W. Hamill, M.D. Professor of Neurological Sciences, and Dr. Philip Ades was invested as the first Philip Ades, M.D. Professor of Cardiovascular Disease Prevention.

Endowments Honor, Fund Educators

At her core, Katie Shepherd is a special education teacher. She believes that every child, and every adult, deserves the chance to learn and flourish in a diverse and sometimes challenging environment for people with disabilities.

As a faculty member in the College of Education and Social Services, Professor Shepherd takes great pride when CESS graduates launch themselves as educators who will make a difference in the world. Take Meg Ziegler ’15, for instance. A secondary ed major/special minor and Honors College student, she was awarded a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship last year. After conducting research with Shepherd that resulted in a co-authored journal article, Ziegler is now teaching English to children in northern Thailand, weaving in a cross-cultural pen-pal exchange program with kids she taught in Shelburne, Vermont, during her student teaching experience.

Shepherd’s expertise and influence extend beyond UVM and Vermont through her publications and current work as the project director for the U.S. Department of Education’s Transformative Leadership for Special Education Administrators.

This professor’s past work and future promise as both teacher and scholar was recently honored when Shepherd was invested as the University of Vermont’s first Levitt Family Green and Gold Professor.

Since President Tom Sullivan began his tenure at UVM, the university and the UVM Foundation have more than doubled the number of endowed faculty positions as a critical component of the Move Mountains campaign. President Sullivan notes how these endowed faculty positions serve as “magnets,” drawing and retaining the best and brightest faculty talent—not to mention attracting exceptional students.

In addition to Katie Shepherd, this fall Jane E. Knodell was endowed as the first Mark J. Zwynenburg Green and Gold Professor of Financial History. In December, two professors from the Robert Larner, M.D. College of Medicine participated in formal investiture ceremonies. Dr. James T. Boyd became the inaugural Robert W. Hamill, M.D. Professor of Neurological Sciences, and Dr. Philip Ades was invested as the first Philip Ades, M.D. Professor of Cardiovascular Disease Prevention.
**CHEMISTRY** | Glow-in-the-dark stickers, weird deep-sea fish, LED lightbulbs—all have forms of luminescence. In other words, instead of just reflecting light, they make their own.

Now a team of scientists from the University of Vermont and Dartmouth College have discovered a new way that some molecules can make a luminescent glow—a strange, bright green.

“It’s a new method to create light,” says Matthew Liptak, UVM assistant professor of chemistry, who co-led the research. The new light may have many promising applications including novel kinds of LED bulbs and medical dyes “that can sense viscosity within a cell,” he says.

To understand how this new light is formed, consider maple syrup. It’s a thick liquid. The scientists at Dartmouth, led by chemist Ivan Aprahamian, were exploring some strange molecules, called molecular rotors, shaped like kayak paddles where both blades rotate around a shaft. (Yes, a very small shaft; many thousands of times thinner than a hair.) In a thin liquid, like water, clumps of these rotating molecules—a kind of dye containing boron—give off a weak, reddish luminescent glow.

But when the scientists put the molecules into thicker and thicker maple syrup-like solvents—in this case, mixtures of glycerol and ethylene glycol—the fluorescent light from these molecular rotors didn’t get weaker as expected. Instead, they glow brightly, in a vivid green color nearer the blue end of the spectrum.

“That was very surprising,” says Liptak, an expert on computational chemistry. So the Dartmouth team turned to him and his students to explain why. As the UVM team investigated, making simulations at the Vermont Advanced Computing Center—and both teams further investigated the molecules using spectroscopy and other lab techniques—they came to an even more surprising discovery: the way this light was being emitted required breaking a long-standing law of chemistry called Kasha’s Rule.

“We found a new way that the universe works that we didn’t understand before,” says Liptak. “It’s an exception to the rule.”

This new pathway to creating light may prove useful. “The compound we found is very bright, and due to its viscosity sensitivity, may have a multitude of applications,” says Morgan Cousins, a UVM doctoral student and co-author on the new study. “We see uses for these kinds of molecules from industrial materials to new kinds of LEDs to biomedical imaging.”

The discovery was reported in the journal *Nature Chemistry*.

---

**A New Light**

---

**John Burke**  
**PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

President Trump made many promises on the campaign trail. How many of them do you think he will try to make good on?

**BURKE:** Let me frame this objectively. In terms of major promises, he’s going to have to make a good faith effort to satisfy his base. At the same time, he will need to focus on things that have more widespread appeal. Moreover, it’s important that he only focus on a few things; here history rather than partisanship informs. Presidents who come in with a laundry list of things they expect Congress to do—and Jimmy Carter is a good example of this—end up unsuccessful because Congress isn’t going to do all of them. You’ve got to guide Congress by saying, “Here are four or five things I think are important,” knowing full well you may only get a few of them. GW. Bush’s experience is instructive here. The contested 2000 presidential election was difficult for Bush, but he was able to rise above it and push his own political agenda forward by governing as if he’d won with a huge majority, and I think that was very smart politically. Whether he made wise choices is another matter.

---

**Every four years, John Burke is in high demand as the foremost expert on U.S. Presidential transitions. His book Presidential Transitions: From Politics to Practice about the Carter, Reagan, Bush Sr., and Clinton transitions is considered essential reading, as is his book on the G.W. Bush transition. This year’s exceptional presidential transition has been no exception with regard to the questions UVM’s John G. McCullough Professor of Political Science has fielded from journalists, appearing widely in media from CNN to New Republic to The Globe and Mail.**

---

Do you think Donald Trump’s differences with key people in his own party, like Speaker Paul Ryan, will affect his ability to get legislation passed?

**BURKE:** I don’t think his possible struggles to pass legislation will be so much due to the fact that the party is split, but rather it will be about how our system of government works. It’s not a business corporation where the CEO gets to dictate things. I mean, Speaker of the House Paul Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell may listen, but they don’t have to do a damn thing. They are not accountable to him. He’s going to have to find a way to accommodate members of Congress. Trump would probably say, “Well, I’m a good negotiator,” but so are they. They aren’t fools. You just don’t simply tell members of your party what they should do. Even Lyndon Johnson knew this, and he was the consummate negotiator with Congress. In short: you have a tough task, President Trump. Tougher than you have ever faced.

The Trump administration, by many estimates, has stumbled out of the gate. How does this compare to other administrations, and what are some steps that might help them recover?

**BURKE:** Early presidential stumbling are not unusual. Both Carter and Clinton faced criticism shortly after they took office of a White House in disarray and dysfunction in their decision making. Unfortunately, Trump does seem to have taken it up a notch, if not a couple of notches. Normally, a White House senses “big trouble” internally would bring in seasoned hands as replacements, as Clinton did with Leon Panetta’s appointment as chief of staff and David Ger er as a general counselor. This is what Trump ought to do, but he needs to clearly understand the situation and clearly signal his willingness to change. I am not optimistic that will occur. Nor is it clear who are the present-day Panettas and Cernegans who have “Inside the Beltway” experience and a willingness to advance the Trump agenda.
New Home for Asian Art in Fleming’s Wilbur Room

ART | The Fleming Museum of Art recently opened a new Gallery of Asian Art highlighting exemplary works from the permanent collection, focusing on China, Korea, Japan, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, and Indonesia. The objects on view span ancient to contemporary examples of courtly, religious, and fine arts as well as everyday objects, including bronzes, ceramics, furniture, cloth- ing and textiles, arms and armor, masks, sculpture, paintings, ink drawings, wood- block prints, and historic photographs.

“We’re thrilled to provide a beautiful new home for the highlights of our Asian collection, where works we’ve been given in the last few decades will dialogues with objects that have been in our collection for over a century,” says Andrea Rusin, the Fleming’s curator and the organizer of the installation.

The Fleming’s Asian holdings have grown more than any other aspect of the collection in the past twenty years, through generous gifts from donors such as David and Richard Nalin ’63, William Pickens III ’58, the Dutta Duke Southeast Asian Art Collection, Henry D. Ginsburg, Anna Rosenblum Palmer G88, Lester and Monique Anderson, and others. The legacy of early Fleming donors, such as Henry LeGrand Cannon and Katherine Wolcott, also plays an important role in the installation, demonstrating that the works and collecting by display, by both private citizens and museums, have molded the perception of Asia in the West.

Faculty and students in UVM’s Asian Studies Program have been involved in the process of planning the installation through classes and internships. In particular, the Honors College class Visualizing History: India, taught by Professor Abigail McGowan, generated student proposals for the installation of the South Asian collection.

The gallery is in the Fleming’s historic Wilbur Room, the first major long-term installation of permanent collection objects in this space. With refinished floors, a new layout, and a spectacular installation, the Wilbur Room has been transformed, while its historic essence remains.

The new Gallery of Asian Art was generously supported by Eric Hanson, with loans from Elizabeth van Merken- steijn ’79, David and Richard Nalin ’63, and the Middlebury College Museum of Art.

Unveiling the Real Rasputin

For a historian working with source documents, there’s a certain visceral thrill of the chase to research. Admittedly, it’s not a Jason Bourne on a motorcycle chase, but a quieter kind. “I love that contact with the actual historical documents themselves—the physical fact that you’re holding papers that Rasputin wrote himself, or the tsar, or these various police agents,” says Doug Smith ’75.

“If the paper, the look of it, the ink, it brings you in contact with that world that your characters inhabited.”

As an accomplished Russian historian, whose five books have brought Russian history alive for a wide audience, Smith has spent a good deal of his career immersed in that world.

As his latest book, Rasputin: Faith, Power, and the Twilight of the Romanovs, is an authoritative, critically acclaimed biography that draws back the thick veil of myth surrounding the man variously described as angel or devil, and explores his role in the downfall of Tsarist Russia.

Smith’s Rasputin biography is the result of six years of work, taking the author to archives in seven countries. Pulling in the sparse facts known of Rasputin’s youth, his earliest upheaval in Tobolsk, Siberia, a town near his birthplace. There, he found a scrap of knowledge that had evaded biographers for a century, documents that showed Rasputin was briefly jailed for the crime of cursing at the mayor. “It’s a little clue,” Smith says. “But it’s a lit- tle clue that offers insight into who he was as a young man—this sort of rebellious, unruly side, a lack of respect for authority.”

Conversely, sometimes it was that Smith didn’t find in those archives that shed light. A popular story, seeded by Rasputin’s death, was that he’d been a horse thief as a young man. Smith found no evidence in police records. “Rasputin: Horse Thief” was taken as early twenty- seventh century Russian style.

With some 150 Rasputin biographies in the Library of Congress, the author initially wasn’t sure that one by Doug- las Smith needed to join the call number. “But as the center of Rasputin’s death approached, Smith was struck by how much myth still seemed to stand as fact with this famous life. “I came away from reading previous biographies not terribly satisfied,” Smith says. “It seemed like Ras- putin was presented as a cartoon character. He is ‘the holy devil, the saint who sinned.’ I just didn’t find it very convincing.”

Looking back at his evolution as a Rus- sian scholar, Smith laughs, and admits to some embarrassment that his initial draw to languages may have been inspired by the bits of German he heard sprinkled in episodes of “Hogan’s Heroes.” At UVM, his interest in German took a turn toward Rus- sian when he minored in the language on the advice of Professor David Scrase. “I fell in love with Russian that first couple days of classes—the new alphabet, the strange sounds and grammar,” Smith still has his copy of the introductory text. Russian for Americans by Ben T. Clark.

That minor would turn into a double major in German and Russian, and Smith went on to earn his doctorate in Russian history from UCLA. While an academic career seemed his most likely course, Smith took the road less travelled in writ- ing books that bring Russian history alive for a lay audience. “I love what I do,” he says. “I’m a true Russophile. I think it is such a fascinating country. I have great respect for the place and the people, and I like to share my passion for it with others who don’t get to spend every day thinking and reading about Russia.”
In 1990, my first year at UVM, I lived in Harris Hall with a Pennsylvania-nian named Elaine. We draped our room in paisley tapestries to hide the pale blue cinderblock, and cooked ramen in a hot-pot. Elaine adorned her bed with a pretty floral comforter. Mine was navy and plain. It was full, and I played a game of picturing my first-year self. She's often hard to see. She writes back: I was just telling some-thing I've lost are not holes at all, but obsta-cles that kept me from growing. As for the young woman who dressed as Tangled Up in Blue, I can almost sense the spaces in my mind where one limb has fallen so another might thicken and bear fruit. It's sad to give up one limb has fallen so another might thicken and bear fruit. It's sad to give up one limb has fallen so another might thicken and bear fruit. It's sad to give up right environmental conservation into my life, but I would work with words.

I stared down at a mock newspaper that I had created in Mahoney's class. He asked me to wait, waving a paper that he thrust in my hands. Which way did my dorm room face? I can't recall. That year, I studied prehistoric archeology, yet all I remember from that class is a gruesome textbook picture of a bogman: a wet empty sack of skin, eyeless. And H.D. Lines, and characters from their books I read aloud in the same patient baritone that once singing in the same patient baritone that once singing to a rally during the takeover. My stu-dent mailbox was here. In these halls, before the age of e-mail, I ripped open letters from distant friends and read them right then, hungry for news.

I took my first creative writing class that year, for the first time, I read Edith Wharton, Ford Madox Ford, Adrienne Rich, and H.D. Lines, and characters from their books I read aloud in the same patient baritone that once singing to a rally during the takeover. My stu-dent mailbox was here. In these halls, before the age of e-mail, I ripped open letters from distant friends and read them right then, hungry for news. That year, I studied prehistoric archeology, yet all I remember from that class is a gruesome textbook picture of a bogman: a wet empty sack of skin, eyeless.

That year, I studied prehistoric archeology, yet all I remember from that class is a gruesome textbook picture of a bogman: a wet empty sack of skin, eyeless. That year, I studied prehistoric archeology, yet all I remember from that class is a gruesome textbook picture of a bogman: a wet empty sack of skin, eyeless. That year, I studied prehistoric archeology, yet all I remember from that class is a gruesome textbook picture of a bogman: a wet empty sack of skin, eyeless. That year, I studied prehistoric archeology, yet all I remember from that class is a gruesome textbook picture of a bogman: a wet empty sack of skin, eyeless. That year, I studied prehistoric archeology, yet all I remember from that class is a gruesome textbook picture of a bogman: a wet empty sack of skin, eyeless.
Hope on the wing

Professor Trish O’Kane’s new course, “Birding to Change the World,” began far from Derway Island at the north edge of Burlington, where, one afternoon last autumn, her class of UVM students trudged through a floodplain forest with a crew of kids from nearby J.J. Flynn Elementary.

In 2005, standing inside the soggy remains of her Hurricane Katrina-ravaged house, a safety respirator strapped on to protect herself from the toxic stew of destruction, she had a strong sense that she needed to change—in her own life and in the world.

That August, O’Kane and her husband, Professor Trish O’Kane, had just moved to New Orleans so she could take a job as a journalism instructor at Loyola University, following ten years as an investigative journalist in Central America, exposing killings and other human rights abuses. Then the storm hit, pushing eleven feet of water through her living room. The soil became poisonous with hexene from oil spills, the air with asbestos from demolitions. Like so many of the city’s residents, “our house was bulldozed,” she says.

As she watched trash-filled buildings and toxic waste wash out into the Gulf of Mexico, O’Kane felt anguished and depressed. “It’s really disempowering to only care about the environment are depressed or they are paralyzed,” she says. “I know what that feels because that’s how I felt after Katrina.” But the birding course can connect students to more firm ground.

“Birding is a great way to connect with nature because birds are so connected with everything else,” says Nathaniel Sharp ‘18, another UVM student who is taking this service-learning course. “Birds are accessible and exciting, whether you’re seeing a bald eagle or penguins.”

Or, on this fine blue-sky afternoon, a pair of beavers. Some dozen of the bird club members have just cheerfully hacked through a formidable thicket of stinging nettles, calling out birds they hear—“downy woodpecker” “That was a yellow-rumped warbler”—and stopped to discuss the beauties (and slight terrifies) of a very large spider tending its web.

AFTER KATRINA

“In the long-term, what I’m really interested in is transformational justice,” O’Kane says. To get there requires some soul work. “I want my college students to know that they can make a difference in the world. I see that many students who care about the environment are depressed or they are paralyzed,” she says. “I know how that feels because that’s how I felt after Katrina.” But the birding course can bring them to more firm ground.

“Let’s get out and touch it and smell it. Let’s get to know a bit of nature and enjoy it.” As a “co-explorer” (O’Kane’s carefully chosen name for the undergrads in the birding club), Blair has been building stick forts in the floodplain forest on Derway Island with the Flynn students he is mentoring.

“So much of the dialogue about the environment is about crisis and destruction,” he says. “It’s really disempowering to only hear about these huge global problems that you can’t do anything about.”

BUDDING BIRDERS

Eleven years later, O’Kane is walking along the edge of the Burlington bike path looking for birds with a group of students—one undergar, one elementary. Tobey, a fourth-grader, points his binoculars overhead. He describes himself as a blue jay whisperer: “I can find them—fast,” he explains with a broad smile.

“Yes, he spotted three blue jays in about thirty seconds, before anyone else could see them,” says Sara Fergus, a sophomore at UVM. Tobey laughs out loud with obvious delight. Did he know he had this talent “before, say, today?” a reporter asks. “Nope,” he says, “but I do like blue jays.” Then he and Fergus pick out some gulls skimming the treetops.

This newly minted jay whisperer and the college student are “bird buddies” in an after-school birding club at the school. Every Wednesday, they head out the side door of the school and walk more than a mile along the bike path to spend a couple hours at Derway Island, a nature preserve. And for Fergus, the club’s weekly outings are the required lab—and heart—of her class.

Before Hurricane Katrina, O’Kane “never cared about birds,” she wrote in an essay published in The New York Times. “So much of the dialogue about the environment is about crisis and destruction,” she says. “It’s really disempowering to only hear about these huge global problems that you can’t do anything about.”

In the despair of Hurricane Katrina’s aftermath, a way to more broadly foster environmental connection was born.

In the despair of Hurricane Katrina’s aftermath, a way to more broadly foster environmental connection was born.
A BRAIN IS ON DISPLAY, its illustrated cross-section two stories tall on the screen at the front of the lecture hall. The surfaces of its lobes bunch together in efficient rolls, packing more brain into less space. Reasoning, movement, memory, speech, vision—the core of a human starts here, in the valleys and crevices of gray matter.

“Look at that beautiful gyrification,” Professor Jim Hudziak says, admiring the brain’s folds. “Your brain’s not dead. It’s dynamic.”

In the back row of the lecture hall, a twenty-year-old UVM freshman sits clutching his right elbow with his left hand, willing his brain to be a little less dynamic. His right hand convulses with electric tremors his nervous system shoots to the appendage. He tucks the erratic hand between his knees, hoping to stabilize it.

The professor goes on to describe neuroplasticity—the brain’s ability to develop neural connections and build synapses that create new paths and reroute signals. This ability to reorganize helps humans compensate for injury and disease and continue learning—a process that continues throughout most of life.

A student near the front asks: “When does the brain start to lose its plasticity?” Age twenty-five, says Hudziak, a pediatric psychiatrist. His students get the point, but he emphasizes it anyway: Their brains are in the prime of their lives.

“What you do to your brain,” he says, “will determine what you become.”

After class, Josh Speidel, the freshman with the errant arm, slides his laptop into his backpack. He pushes his right hand into a pocket of his khaki cargo shorts, another strategy for muffling the tremor. He shuffles out of class with a couple of hundred other students. As the pack thins, his stride becomes more visible: His left leg lags behind the sure step of his right. And though the backpack is slung over both shoulders, his left hangs lower, as if carrying a heavy weight.

He walks the fifty feet to the bus stop, the day’s lecture on display.

By Amy Wimmer Schwarb

Photograph by Jamie Schwaberow of NCAA Photos
JOSH WAS EIGHT YEARS OLD the first time he stepped into Memorial Gymnasium at Columbus North in southern Indiana. His family, new to the community, came to check out a treasured landmark: a high school gym that seats 2,071 people, making it one of the largest cathedrals to basketball in a state where the sport is religion. The gym lights were dim that summer day, his mom recalls, and her boy stepped to center court, spun around to absorb its size, and announced: “This is where I want to play basketball.”

Basketball. The sport casts a mystic spell in Columbus, the birthplace of Chuck Taylor, a World War I-era high school basketball team captain who went on to design the iconic shoe that bears his name.

Forty miles away is Indiana University, Bloomington, where five Division I men’s basketball championship banners hang in the rafters of Assembly Hall. Basketball loomed large over generations of Josh’s family, too. His 6-foot-7 great-uncle set scoring and rebounding records in Huntington, Indiana, in the 1960s. Dave Speidel, Josh’s dad, played for the Eastern High School Comets in the 1980s in tiny Greentown, Indiana. Mary Speidel—“Grandma Mary” to Josh—is perhaps the family’s biggest fan. At seventy-two, she stands six feet tall and still follows Eastern in the high school tournament.

By the time Josh was twelve, the family was piecing together what kind of athlete he would be—the kind who delivered when it mattered. His Little League team advanced to the 2005 Great Lakes Region Tournament championship game. Josh wasn’t the star. His team didn’t win. But he did hit two home runs in a game broadcast on ESPN. “They never remember that I was 2-for-17 before that,” he muses.

His mom, Lisa Speidel, confirms: “When the lights came on, you couldn’t stop him. He started when he was unconscious, vulnerable, weak. Four weeks passed before he woke up. When he did, he couldn’t walk. He couldn’t speak. He couldn’t grip a small Nerf basketball made for toddlers. But V’mont has its own homegrown selling points. Drag just off campus, then walked to Ben & Jerry’s for a good impression. Becker and Cieplicki took the Speidels to dinner on Church Street, the eclectic main drag just off campus, then walked to Ben & Jerry’s for ice cream. Indiana might be famous for basketball, but Vermont has its own homergrown selling points. In a photo from that evening, the coaches pose with Josh under the downtown streetlights, their arms draped around him and his around them. The recruit wears a gray long-sleeved T-shirt bearing seven green block letters: V E R M O N T. “It’s hard to put into words, but when we talked to the Vermont coaches, they really connected with us,” Lisa says. “They did a really good job of investing in Josh. We didn’t know how much, then.”

Two months later, on his 18th birthday, Josh announced his commitment to the Catamounts. The announcement meant recommitting to hard work. Josh began lifting more and followed Vermont’s progress in the season. The coaches also followed his as he pushed his scoring average to 25.6 points and once again averaged 9.3 rebounds. Josh became the top career rebounder in school history as a junior. By December of his senior year, he was the top career scorer, too. But one person still wasn’t persuaded that Vermont was the right choice. Grandma Mary told her son and daughter-in-law she wanted to meet the coach herself. They arranged the conversation when Becker vis-
Two days after the accident, in the middle of college basketball season, a Division I men's basketball coach from New England sat at a hospital bed—other pieces of his brain might be forever changed. Would he still love Harry Potter? Would he work for Harry Potter? Would he still have a big laugh?

Ernie Duncan's birthday arrived in early May as he was concluding his freshman year at Vermont. Josh sent Ernie a video of himself, sitting up in bed at his rehab center. His words came slow, but clear. "Hey, Ernie. Happy birthday, I miss you."

Josh's fingers on her throat so he could feel the vibration as she formed the word. He put his fingers on his own throat and repeated, "Mom." More names came within days: Jamie. "Mic-aya." "Grandma." He looked at a picture of his basketball team and ID'd his teammates. Which one is...No. 32? his mother asked. Josh replied: "Me." Let's go—what's next?

One question haunted the Speidels in the weeks and months they spent waiting for their son to show up. If Mel's fences were big enough, would he open his eyes, found his voice, returned to walk—even if they dared to think he might once again shoot a basket? His eyes, his laugh? Would he still love Harry Potter? Would he work for Harry Potter? Would he still have a tattoo of his father's name? Would he be thinking of the stranger—a high school girl from Whiteland—who lies next to them, appearing lifeless? Becker offered this: "We're with your family. Josh is a part of us, whether he plays basketball or doesn't. He's a Catamount."
When Lisa, an elementary school assistant principal, returned for the fall semester in 2015, her superintendent offered a proposal. What if Josh joined the school staff as an instructional assistant? It promised a paycheck, a structured schedule, and a chance to put his brain to work. Josh arrived at the school cautiously and unsure of his role. But by the end of the academic year, he was confident enough to approach the teacher with his own ideas for presenting a math problem to a struggling fourth grader. “I think they might get it,” Josh told the teacher.

He arrived the first day of class in a wheelchair and used his own legs to walk out on the last. In Josh, the children saw a living example of what hard work and tenacity can produce. And he picked up something, too—a possible new vision for his future. He thinks he might want to be a teacher.

The Speidels wanted to be anywhere but Columbus—on the one-year anniversary of Josh’s accident. So they boarded a plane and went to the other place Josh feels at home—Burlington, Vermont. The Catamounts introduced Josh during a home game, bringing fans to their feet, welcoming him to the fold. Two weeks later, Becker called the Speidels. “You know what? Let’s get him here,” the coach said. “Let us have him, and let’s see where this goes.”

This time, it was Becker asking, “What’s next?”

Josh was on all fours, the weight of his body helping to tame the relentless tremor in his right arm. Marc Hickok, Vermont’s co-director of athletic performance, told Josh to crawl with his legs extended, like a basketball player. “It’s natural for Josh, too, so he can carry himself, once again, like a basketball player,” Hickok said.

Josh tried to stand, but his body slumped on the training room floor. He found a sure spot on the mat and stayed there. He used his own legs to walk out on the last. In Josh, the children saw a living example of what hard work and tenacity can produce. And he picked up something, too—a possible new vision for his future. He thinks he might want to be a teacher.

The children saw a living example of what hard work and tenacity can produce. And he picked up something, too—a possible new vision for his future. He thinks he might want to be a teacher.

The children saw a living example of what hard work and tenacity can produce. And he picked up something, too—a possible new vision for his future. He thinks he might want to be a teacher.

The children saw a living example of what hard work and tenacity can produce. And he picked up something, too—a possible new vision for his future. He thinks he might want to be a teacher.

SUDENLY, THE PREVIOUS MONTHS seemed to hold value, as if they had been building toward a purpose all along. The Speidels’ work with their son took on new urgency. “I’m not going to be there to help you get into the shower,” Lisa would say. “So what are you going to do?”

One day this summer, Dave and Lisa drove to a laundromat in Columbus. They introduced their son to the machines and left him there with dirty laundry and some quarters. “We’ll be back,” they said. A couple of hours later, the parents returned to find Josh and clean clothes, folded in neat stacks. “Hey, that’s great,” his teammate encouraged. “You got up—we gotta go to the gym,” Josh recalls. “Josh, get up—we gotta go shoot some baskets.” Dad was more the physical part, like basketball and lifting. He went to the gym with a lot. Mom made me sit down at my table and read or do homework. “I look back, and I get mad at myself for getting upset with them for pushing me so hard,” he says. “I guess I didn’t realize just what that did for me.”

It’s the second week of Vermont’s fall semester. “Well, he took his academic advisor with him to see him in her office. He isn’t sure why Josh’s short-term memory can falter, but so far he feels on top of his eleven-hour load. He relies on the calendar on his phone to be an extension of his brain. Today’s lineup: an 8:50 a.m. class, a 10 a.m. appointment, and an 11 a.m. workout in the training room. On Dow’s agenda: Josh’s daily meetup with his academic coach. He missed his appointment the day before, she notes. He also didn’t show up one day the previous week. Josh is alarmed—he can’t place where he was or why he wasn’t where he was supposed to be. “Are you suggesting I don’t take my academics seriously?” he asks.

“No, no, no,” Dow reassures. “That big thing is, it’s cool if something comes up—you just let her know. Going forward, we should keep that time sacred.”

“The next few years are critical, doctors say, for restoring brain function. Josh will spend much of that time in classes, workouts, tutoring sessions, practices, exams, games, team meetings—each one edging him closer to his goal: ‘I want to be able to put on a University of Vermont uniform and take the court and play,’ Josh says. ‘Let’s go. What’s next?’

This article was originally published in the fall issue of the NCAA Champion Magazine.
AS BILL FALLS traces his family history and personal path to college, he evokes a place and time far removed from the stately, wood-paneled office of a UVM psychology professor and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Falls’s parents were both shift workers at the General Electric plant in Lynn, Massachusetts. His father—who dropped out of school at eleven, enlisted at seventeen, married at eighteen—was a pipefitter, working on large turbine engines for the Navy at G.E.’s Riverworks. His mother, daughter of Sicilian immigrants, left school after the sixth grade.

Jacqueline and Vincent Falls, raised their four children in the old red-brick mill towns north of Boston. All three of Bill Falls’s older siblings took directions in life that didn’t involve college—beauty school, auto body trade school, and the military. Up until junior high, Falls says he doesn’t remember considering continuing his own education beyond a high school diploma. “If I thought at all about what I was going to do, I was going to go work for G.E. like my parents,” he says.

Then Uncle Dom spoke up. More worldly than the rest of his family, Dominic Marino, had taken some college courses, lived in Rome for a number of years, read voraciously. He saw the intellectual spark in his nephew Bill and told his parents that their youngest should consider college. “What would you like to do? What could you be?” he asked his nephew, kindling the aspiration that would eventually lead Bill Falls to a bachelor’s degree from Bates College, a doctorate from Yale University, a full professorship and that dean’s office on College Street at the University of Vermont.

The stories of first-generation college students—all have their singular plot turns. But there are commonalities: the individual who first opened that sense of the possible regarding higher education, the challenges of pioneers navigating uncharted territory within their families, and, for some, the struggle to believe that they truly belong on a college campus.
KYRA PEACOCK is a young woman with a plan. It begins with the UVM bachelor's degree in animal sciences that she began work on last fall, followed by veterinary school, work as a large animal DVM, traveling globally to work with large exotic species, and, along the journey, earning a PhD. Her lofty aspiration is rooted in the hard economic realities of her upbringing in Frederick, Maryland, where her parents' unemployment and health challenges made for constant financial strain.

“She is a driven young woman with a clear vision for the future,” says Adrian Burnett, the College of Arts and Sciences psychology and dean Bill Falls, professor of psychology and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

PREVIOUS PAGES: Adrian Burnett ’19, Tracy Ballysingh, assistant professor in Higher Education and Student Affairs; Kyra Peacock ’20, Bill Falls, professor of psychology and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Peacock's first semester has had its challenges, from roommate issues to illness to a tough chemistry course, but she's weathered them and remains firm in that draw she felt to UVM.

Peacock acknowledges sensing a socio-economic divide with some of her classmates. But instead of despair, she takes inspiration from it. "Sure, I get a little jealous when I hear people who don't have to worry about loans, their parents are paying the whole tuition," she says. "That kind of annoyed me, but it doesn't ruin friendships. Everyone gets the stick they got. It's what they do with it to make it better."

Like Kyra Peacock, Adrian Burnett knows the bottom-line financial challenges that are part of college life for many first-generation students. After completing two years at UVM, the environmental studies major, is taking this year off from school to work, saving up enough to pay the rent and continue his education next fall.

Ballysingh has balanced multiple jobs with paid roles on Senator Bernie Sanders presidential campaign and David Zuckerman's successful run for Vermont lieutenant governor. Considering his aspirations after he finishes his degree, Burnett says, "I'd like to be involved in policy work, whether that is continuing working for non-profits or getting a job working as staff for government leaders. I think policy has to play a huge role in tackling climate change," he says. "I'd like to be part of that." Burnett's path to UVM was one of special need. Raised by his family on a religious commune in Pennsylvania, he was ousted as a gay man in high school, expelled from school and the community because of it. He found his way to St. Johnsbury, Vermont, via another past-member of the religious commune, completed high school at St. Johnsbury Academy, then enrolled at the state university.

While many first-generation students face college challenges without the benefit of parents who have been through the same experience, Burnett faces them with no support and very little contact with his family. "Figuring out the financial aid process, figuring out registering for classes, moving forward with a degree, it is all done on my own and with the help of people like Cara (Chinchar) in the counseling office and TRIO," Burnett says. "So I get help from the university, which is awesome. I wish more first-gen students would know about the help that is available."

THE TRIO STUDENT support services office that Burnett references is a key institutional resource for first-generation, low-income, and students with disabilities. Beyond TRiO, UVM students often find advocates among staff and faculty throughout the university. Cara Chinchar, a counselor in UVM’s Center for Health & Wellbeing, a first-generation college student herself, is sympathetic to their challenges and knows their potential.

Considering Adrian Burnett and another student who recently took a break from school for financial reasons, she says, "They are amazingly resilient. They are recognized by their teachers, by their employers, given multiple awards. The word of the last few years is 'grit'. These students have it."

Chinchar adds that helping first-generation students requires it "takes a village" mindset throughout the university. "It's not one person's job. This is everyone's job. Everyone needs to take that extra five minutes, everyone needs to take that time to help a student make that phone call or figure out a question," she says.

From staff member Cara Chinchar to academic dean Bill Falls to undergrad Adrian Burnett, a common refrain for first-generation college student success is finding the courage to seek help and simply ask those questions. Tracy Arámbula Ballysingh, assistant professor in Higher Education and Student Affairs, includes first-generation issues at the core of her academic research, an interest that traces to her own experience. Ballysingh grew up in Collinville, Illinois, just across the Mississippi River from St. Louis. An immigrant from Mexico, her mother worked at Home Depot for twenty years and also ran a Mexican food truck; her father was a self-described "jack-of-all-trades." Ballysingh estimates her parents' combined income was around $16,000 when she applied to the University of Illinois in 1992.

The future professor might have never taken that leap to college if she had accepted a "gearhead" track a guidance counselor had placed her on, likely due to her mother's thick Spanish accent. An engaged student, Ballysingh soon sensed she was in the wrong courses and made a change. Looking back at her college years, Ballysingh
says the differences she felt were more due to economics than purely that her parents had not been to college. “The concept of ‘first-generation’ wasn’t something I had heard or embraced until graduate school at the University of Texas when I began working with these students who had experiences that were similar to my own,” she says. “I thought of myself as different because my friends on my dorm floor were from affluent suburbs of Chicago. They had computers in their dorm rooms, and I had never touched a computer.”

Not all first-generation stories are necessarily rooted in financial hardship. The parents of David Daigle ’89, chair of UVM’s Board of Trustees, were both from large Vermont families and chose paths other than college. For Daigle’s father that meant, after years working for IBM, building his own successful small business, a feed and farm supply store in Richford, Vermont. Based on his own life, he didn’t see college as sole path to career success. But David Daigle was a bright student, who began to get encouragement to go to college from his high school teachers. At UVM, he would find more mentorship from professors and went on to an MBA from the University of Chicago and a successful career in the financial industry. Daigle’s brother Robert ’97, found his own way to UVM and, after some bumps along the way, success with an MBA from Columbia and a career in international security. “My father got behind our college,” David Daigle says. “He’s a huge advocate for higher education now.”

Looking back on his UVM years, Lumbra says, “The exposure to out-of-state kids—new friends from Cleveland, Seattle, Syracuse, Silver Springs, Philadelphia—for a kid from small-town Vermont, it was the best possible thing I could have had. It flipped my script, that access to different ways of thinking from students with more urban backgrounds.” A mechanical engineering major, who would go on to an MBA from Harvard, Lumbra says he felt his confidence grow as he found he could hold his own when the academic going got tough. Lumbra’s adoptive parents in northern Vermont hadn’t attended college themselves, but encouraged him as he excelled in both academics and athletics. For the nitty-gritty of what was next and how to get there, Lumbra found help from guidance counselors, teachers, and friends.

“Today, from the perspective of a UVM trustee, Lumbra celebrates how providing opportunities for first-generation students synch with the mission of a public university. It’s a thought that fellow trustee and son of Vermont David Daigle echoes. “Kudos to the first-generation kids, because they are breaking new ground within their family context and social structure,” he says. “That takes courage. And universities have a responsibility to encourage these students to take that leap.”
PHIL SCOTT, GOVERNOR
VO-TECH EDUCATION MAJOR ’80
At Spaulding High School in Barre, Vermont, Phil Scott took academic courses in the morning and spent his afternoons in the vocational-technical program, working mostly in the machine shop.
“1 loved to build and create and craft things,” Scott recalls. “I loved building anything. I was very involved in industrial arts, woodworking, drafting, I loved it all.”
Looking back on his teenage years, Scott says he was inspired in particular by Richard Flies, his industrial arts teacher. Flies was a role model, and instrumental in Scott’s decision to study vo-tech education in college.
Scott left Vermont to attend the University of Southern Maine, which offered an industrial arts program. After three semesters, he transferred to UVM.
Scott’s father died of war-related injuries when Scott was a child, leaving his mother to raise three sons. Scott worked his way through school. UVM made financial sense, and work opportunities were more plentiful in his home state, Scott says.

“UVM helped me fall in love with Vermont,” Johnson says. “I had the feeling of not really knowing what my options were,” she says. Talking with her parents, Johnson decided to stay at UVM and make plans for a junior year abroad.

Johnson majored in environmental studies with a focus on international development. A pianist, she took up percussion instruments to play in the UVM pep band. Johnson started walking north from Springer Mountain, intending to major in chemistry and become a doctor. That plan changed after Zuckerman took a year off to work in a pallet factory in the Shenandoah Valley and hike the Appalachian Trail.

Johnson traveled, volunteered, and enjoyed an unfettered expanse of time. “I did the walkabout, so to speak,” she says. “The time off is really what gave me some focus. That’s when I really decided to focus on issues around the environment, international development, and poverty.”

With the exception of a year in Hartford, Connecticut, during which Johnson worked on a community garden project through AmeriCorps, she has lived in Vermont since arriving here as a student. She has worked as a piano teacher, an emergency responder, a hunger relief advocate, and served in the Vermont House since 2003. “UVM helped me fall in love with Vermont,” Johnson says.

David Zuckerman arrived at the University of Vermont from Brookline, Massachusetts, intending to major in chemistry and become a doctor. That plan changed after Zuckerman took a year off to work in a pallet factory in the Shenandoah Valley and hike the Appalachian Trail.

When Zuckerman returned to UVM, he changed his major from chemistry to environmental studies and focused his student activism on social justice issues—causes that concern people of color, the LGBTQ community, the environment, and more.

Zuckerman’s experience in environmental studies, he inherently learn the interconnectedness of our environment and the various struggles people face,” says Zuckerman, an organic farmer. In 1994, while a student at UVM, Zuckerman ran for the
VERMONT QUARTERLY SPRING 2017

It was the spring of 1999, a week or so before Ashe’s UVM graduation. Sanders’s right-hand man, Phil Fermont ’77, wondered if Ashe could hustle downtown for a job interview with Vermont’s U.S. Congressman, an independent member of the House of Representatives. Time was short: Sanders was about to catch a plane to the nation’s capital.

Ashe kept his T-shirt on and raced to Church Street to talk with Sanders.

“I got a call that day or the next, and a week after graduation was my first day working in the office.”

Thus began the political life of Tim Ashe, who started as a “jack-of-all-trades” for Sanders. He went on to serve on the Burlington City Council for four years before his election to the Vermont Senate in 2008.

Ashe grew up in Holliston, Massachusetts, and said he was drawn to UVM for its liberal arts curriculum and the caliber of the humanities faculty. He majored in English and history, yet wrote his honors thesis—about Czech President Vaclav Havel and the role of intellectuals in elected office—under the guidance of Robert Taylor, a political scientist.

“I really received kind of a classic humanities education,” Ashe says, recalling a group of “fantastic teaching professors.” They include: Tom Simone (English); Richard Sugerman (religion); Taylor (political science); and Denise Youngblood (history).

In their classes, Ashe considered a series of fundamental questions: What type of person am I? What type of life do I want to lead?

He affirmed for himself that he wanted to pursue a life of public service. This type of work was most valuable and meaningful to him, Ashe says.

“Trying to improve the lives of others originated and matured while I was at UVM,” he says.

Ashe left Vermont for two years to get a master’s degree at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

“While I was there I realized that I was going to be coming back to Burlington,” Ashe says. “It’s where I want to be. The moment I graduated I was in my car driving back.”

JIM CONDOS, SECRETARY OF STATE

RESOURCE ECONOMICS MAJOR ’74

Forty-plus years after graduating college, Jim Condos recalls details of college with admirable detail. For instance, the win-loss record of the UVM soccer team on a 1970 road trip to Europe: 1-8-1. Not quite glory days. “We got our asses handed to us,” Condos says.

Condos was a goalie on the JV team for that tour. After freshman year, he turned his attention to intramural football and hockey instead. But as a fan, he would become a Catamount vanity sports legend: leading the cheers at hockey games from 1969 to 1997. Dressed in a green down vest and yellow rubberized fisherman’s cap, Condos employed his deep booming voice to rev up the crowd.

“Go, Cats, Go!” he implored, and the fans joined in.

“Gimme a V; Gimme an E; Gimme an R,” Condos chanted, leading the crowd to spell V-E-R-M-O-N-T.

Gutterson had long felt like home to Condos, a townie who went to UVM hockey games as a high school kid. “Back in those days, there was no glass around the rink,” Condos recalls. “There was fencing, we called it ‘chicken wire.’ You didn’t want to get your face crushed on the fence, I can tell you.”

Attending college three miles from home, Condos lived in a residence hall for two years and a fraternity house, Sigma Nu, his junior and senior years. His mother, Irene Condos, was administrative assistant to the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Condos would walk through Waterman on his way to classes to say to his mother, “Hi.”

“UVM years were great years,” Condos says. “You make a lot of friends. You grow up a lot there.”

He majored in resource economics, a course of study related to municipal and regional planning. That educational background served him well when he entered the political arena, as his initial involvement concerned a zoning issue in his South Burlington neighborhood of Mayfair.

The effort propelled him to an appointment on the Zoning Board, and onto a winning bid for the South Burlington City Council. Condos was on the council from 1989 to 2007, a tenure that coincided with his election to the Vermont Senate (2001-2008). After a two-year break from government service, he was elected Secretary of State in 2010.

Condos credits his predecessor in the Secretary of State’s Office, fellow UVM alumn Deb Markowitz ’83, with suggesting he run for his latest role in public service.
Katie Elmore Mota is shaking up Hollywood. As founder, co-president, and executive producer of Wise Entertainment, she’s breaking ground with smart, socially relevant content that tells the stories of underrepresented audiences. Wise’s first project, the five-time Emmy-nominated “East Los High,” is the first English-language television show with all Latino cast members, creators, and writers. “Our goal is to create things that people love and that make them say, ‘I’m seeing myself for the first time on TV,’” says Mota.

RURAL ROOTS

Mota championed diverse stories long before #hollywoodso white was a trending topic. Born in NYC and raised on a farm in Westford, Vermont, her mixed-race family includes a biological brother and four partially adopted siblings who lived with their biological parents part-time. They were one of the only non-white families in town. “We had so many different experiences even though we lived under one roof,” says Mota. The family made movies every summer that touched on the discrimination they experienced. “I look back at my writing from grade school and that’s what I was writing about, because I couldn’t make sense of it.”

ROCKIN’ IRA ALLEN CHAPEL

At UVM, Mota focused on social history and earned a place in the John Dewey Honors Program, precursor to the Honors College. “I really loved the study of people and how social movements shape our country and the world over time,” she says. Mota also took every photography class she could.

In addition to academics, she helped reboot the student concert bureau and organized up to twenty shows a year, ranging from Jurassic 5 to Mike Gordon ’87. “I looked at pop culture as a way to create a sense of community. It makes sense; there’s a lot of crossover with the company I have now.” She credits that experience with preparing her for the path she’s taken. “There are hurdles, especially being a young woman running a production company. I learned a lot about how to deal with them during my time at UVM.”

Katie Elmore Mota ’04

A NEW VOICE

Katie Elmore Mota is shaking up Hollywood. As founder, co-president, and executive producer of Wise Entertainment, she’s breaking ground with smart, socially relevant content that tells the stories of underrepresented audiences. Wise’s first project, the five-time Emmy-nominated “East Los High,” is the first English-language television show with all Latino cast members, creators, and writers. “Our goal is to create things that people love and that make them say, ‘I’m seeing myself for the first time on TV,’” says Mota.

RURAL ROOTS

Mota championed diverse stories long before #hollywoodso white was a trending topic. Born in NYC and raised on a farm in Westford, Vermont, her mixed-race family includes a biological brother and four partially adopted siblings who lived with their biological parents part-time. They were one of the only non-white families in town. “We had so many different experiences even though we lived under one roof,” says Mota. The family made movies every summer that touched on the discrimination they experienced. “I look back at my writing from grade school and that’s what I was writing about, because I couldn’t make sense of it.”

ROCKIN’ IRA ALLEN CHAPEL

AT UVM, Mota focused on social history and earned a place in the John Dewey Honors Program, precursor to the Honors College. “I really loved the study of people and how social movements shape our country and the world over time,” she says. Mota also took every photography class she could.

In addition to academics, she helped reboot the student concert bureau and organized up to twenty shows a year, ranging from Jurassic 5 to Mike Gordon ’87. “I looked at pop culture as a way to create a sense of community. It makes sense; there’s a lot of crossover with the company I have now.” She credits that experience with preparing her for the path she’s taken. “There are hurdles, especially being a young woman running a production company. I learned a lot about how to deal with them during my time at UVM.”

Katie Elmore Mota ’04

A NEW VOICE

Katie Elmore Mota is shaking up Hollywood. As founder, co-president, and executive producer of Wise Entertainment, she’s breaking ground with smart, socially relevant content that tells the stories of underrepresented audiences. Wise’s first project, the five-time Emmy-nominated “East Los High,” is the first English-language television show with all Latino cast members, creators, and writers. “Our goal is to create things that people love and that make them say, ‘I’m seeing myself for the first time on TV,’” says Mota.

RURAL ROOTS

Mota championed diverse stories long before #hollywoodso white was a trending topic. Born in NYC and raised on a farm in Westford, Vermont, her mixed-race family includes a biological brother and four partially adopted siblings who lived with their biological parents part-time. They were one of the only non-white families in town. “We had so many different experiences even though we lived under one roof,” says Mota. The family made movies every summer that touched on the discrimination they experienced. “I look back at my writing from grade school and that’s what I was writing about, because I couldn’t make sense of it.”

ROCKIN’ IRA ALLEN CHAPEL

AT UVM, Mota focused on social history and earned a place in the John Dewey Honors Program, precursor to the Honors College. “I really loved the study of people and how social movements shape our country and the world over time,” she says. Mota also took every photography class she could.

In addition to academics, she helped reboot the student concert bureau and organized up to twenty shows a year, ranging from Jurassic 5 to Mike Gordon ’87. “I looked at pop culture as a way to create a sense of community. It makes sense; there’s a lot of crossover with the company I have now.” She credits that experience with preparing her for the path she’s taken. “There are hurdles, especially being a young woman running a production company. I learned a lot about how to deal with them during my time at UVM.”

Katie Elmore Mota talks with actors during shooting of “East Los High.”
HOW UVM’S WELLNESS ENVIRONMENT IS REWIRING COLLEGE STUDENTS’ BRAINS

GORGEOUS NEUROSCIENCE

MEETS

STUDENT LIFE

BY SARAH TUFF DUNN
It’s 6:20 p.m. on a Thursday in mid-September, sixty-three degrees out, and the first-year students around McAuley Hall are thirsty. No, not in a “Thirsty Thursday” wink-wink kind of way that suggests a trip down the bill to Last Chance Saloon. It’s a more virtuous thirst on display for instance, Luke Nawrocki has just ridden back from calculus class and eyes the water fountain as he locks up his bike. Also working up a sweat, weightlifters rotating through sets on the Precor machines, runners on the treadmill in the residence hall’s fitness center, and a class of students in a “Lunar Flow Yoga” session. Says instructor Nalini Flanders as she lights a candle, “Release through your head.”

“Release through the head, indeed. This is just a huge paradigm shift for the way college has operated,” says Dr. Jon Porter, director of the Center for Health and Wellbeing and strong supporter of WE. “The bar has just been set too low in higher education for too many generations.”

GRAY MATTERS

BRAIN SCIENCE has arguably never been a hotter topic, with scientific American Mind appealing to millennials and octogenarians alike, and paper after paper illuminating that what we thought we knew about our noggins may no longer be true.

This is especially prevalent among young people. As Richard Friedman points out in an October 8, 2016, op-ed piece in The New York Times: “Neuroplasticity—the brain’s ability to form new neural connections and rewiring itself in response to environmental influences—is greatest in childhood and adolescence, when the brain is still a work in progress.”

While Friedman went on to explain how recent research is showing that older adults can recapture the brain’s earlier plasticity, he hits on an illusive prevention strategy that Hudziak, whose primary job is serving as director of the Vermont Center for Children, Youth and Families, has been quietly and almost exclusively promoting for more than two decades. He believes there’s no such thing as a bad kid, just bad brain wiring.

“So some of my scientific peers have said, ‘Well, you just made WE up,’” says Hudziak. “‘But no, I’ve been working on it for twenty-five years with the families and children I work with in the clinic, and so WE was just the Vermont family-based approach goes to college.’”

In his research, Hudziak and his colleagues have been following 100,000 twins since their birth in the Netherlands, examining how their surrounding environment affects their genomes. “It affects our thoughts, actions, and behaviors,” he extrapolates “so all health comes from emotional behavioral health.”

THE ROAD TO WE

BORN AND RAISED in the Midwest, Hudziak attended St. John’s University in Collegeville, Minnesota. He suggests that his own early undergrad days weren’t exactly wellness focused. “I made a number of bad decisions, so sophomore year I decided to hang out with Theresa,” says Hudziak, referring to his wife of three decades, who went to the sister school of St. John’s. “She is very smart and disciplined and I was neither, so it was nice to learn those skills.”

Dr. Hudziak joined the Department of Psychiatry at UVM’s College of Medicine in 1993, landing in a position that fit just right with his love of ice hockey (he has coached youth sports) and of engaging with kids and families at a critical juncture in life. When it came time for his daughter to apply to college, he began to closely examine the environment in which he was teaching and working. How could it be better?

The co-author of more than 175 peer-reviewed papers in health and wellness, Hudziak was lining up for a WE-sponsored 5K around the golf course loop. “This is just a huge paradigm shift for the way colleges have operated,” says Dr. Jon Porter, director of the Center for Health and Wellbeing and strong supporter of WE. “The bar has just been set too low in higher education for too many generations.”

WE goes way beyond pulling the plug on poor behavior. Grounded in the latest research on neuroscience, the program shows students how brains are physiologically different, depending on how you treat them. “I’m an optimistic fellow and I believe in the goodness of people, and I believe in young people, but in many universities, it’s difficult to make healthy choices.” —Dr. James Hudziak

WE was lifted up a new model.

Pioneered by Professor James Hudziak, M.D., Dr. Jim to his students, WE has significantly reduced substance abuse on campus while earning national buzz for its novel and ground breaking approach to neuroplasticity, mindfulness, and the charismatic mastermind behind the program. No college has tried this level before.

WE goes way beyond pulling the plug on poor behavior. Grounded in the latest research on neuroscience, the program shows students how brains are physiologically different, depending on how you treat them. “I’m an optimistic fellow and I believe in the goodness of people, and I believe in young people, but in many universities, it’s difficult to make healthy choices,” says Dr. Hudziak. “So my idea was to create an environment that will incentivize you to practice neuroplasticity, yoga, fitness and good nutrition, and to avoid alcohol and drugs.”

Introduced at UVM in 2015, WE is hitting a major nerve in northern Vermont. In just one year, the number of students opting out of “happy hour” and opting into another higher level of happiness has quadrupled to 480, with demand outpacing supply in residence availability.

NBCNews, the Boston Globe, and other major media outlets have all taken notice of this novel approach to clean living. Alcohol violations at UVM, meanwhile, dropped from 1,000-plus in 2013 to 657 in 2015. Drug violations dropped from 682 violations to 138 in the same two years. Though there was a crowd lighting up on Redstone on 4/20 day last year, a larger group was lining up for a WE-sponsored 5K around the golf course loop.

It was with this premise that Hudziak assembled a team to create WE, which is a work in progress—much like the man behind it. He began meditating five years ago, is learning to play cello, and dedicates just about every moment of his spare time to promoting positive living. Jon Porter calls his friend Hudziak “a freight train of a man.” (For the record: The Boston Globe went with “affable bear of a man” for Hudziak descriptor.)

What begins as a single cellular change in the
brains of UVM students grows exponentially to impact the entire campus. Vice president for student affairs Annie Stevens says that WE has been so popular among new students, it’s changed the way the university looks at residential living.

“It’s a challenge logistically,” she says. “But it’s a challenge we all believe is well worth it, as long as the students are healthy and happy. Any time you have that many students living together, bonded by one common goal to be healthier in their lives, they’re naturally going to be happier.”

Near the former footprint of Chittenden-Buckham-Wills halls, an impressive new 700-bed residential complex rises which will be home to WE students when it opens fall 2017.

“I had no idea that my brain could be shaped this way—this program has changed my life in more ways than I thought was possible,” says first-year student C.J. Cropper. “I started running again, I started meditating, and I started studying the principles, and I could feel myself getting healthier—I was blown away.”

Adds fellow first-year Brenna Coombs, “I’m fascinated by how much neurological information we’ve been given, and how applicable it is to college life. It’s not necessarily that we’ve gotten smarter, but we more understand the how and the why.”

DON’T JUDGE, JUST PRESENT

WE’s foundation is the “Healthy Brains, Healthy Bodies” class taught by Hudziak. Sessions typically begin with the professor tossing a brain-shaped football around Carpenter Auditorium and are followed by several minutes of group meditations before lectures on neuroscience, sleep, nutrition, and relationships, among other topics. Leading many of these discussions are national and international experts who arrive via Skype or in person to much fanfare, including legendary mindfulness author Jon Kabat-Zinn.

There are pilgrimages over to the neurorhapy lab for a look at how scientists are picking apart real brains, and final group projects that see creative ideas ranging from a WE pet program to a WE app that prevents drivers from starting their cars until they’ve done a five-minute meditation. One week Hudziak brought in Kelley Gibson, a nineteen-year-old patient whose psychosis had led to hospitalization and over-medication. Music, diet, weight-lifting, and meditation all brought him back to wellness.

“The brain is in an incredibly vulnerable period of development when it goes off to college,” says Hudziak, who has compared the mind of a twenty-seven-year-old to a beautifully painted house, but that of a seventeen to twenty-three-year-old as one still under construction. “WE is about making it possible for individuals with those brains to promote healthy brain growth. We don’t judge—we just present gorgeous neuroscience.”

WE is poised to take it up a notch with a new mentorship program that partners past participants with newcomers to share the journey on a daily, sometimes hourly basis. They have Apple watches with a WE app that incentivizes students to engage in the health promotion activities in WE: yoga, mindfulness, fitness, nutrition, and mentoring.

“Don’t judge, just present.”


CLASS NOTES

Life beyond graduation

Even Ira can’t resist the call of fresh tracks. A look back into our magazine archive.

33-64

Green & Gold Reunion

October 6-8, 2017

If you are interested in planning your upcoming reunion, email alumni@uvm.edu.

Send your news to—

UVM Alumni Association

411 Main Street, Burlington, VT 05401

Vermont Quarterly, a publication of the University of Vermont

Myron ’42 lences of our class to the family of Napa, California, who passed away, of Betty and Harry keeping busy with their frequent visitors and attend- ing the symphony and musical shows. I also had a very warm and happy communication from Doro- thy Cole in Shelburne who seems to be enjoying life immensely. Patty Pike Hallock is now living in the Meadows in Rutland, a retired community life immensely. Nancy Aibel who still reside in Manhattan. Ben sticks to campus this past fall had a grand time. I received a note from our classmate, Joan Blakeman, reporting that her husband, Alan, passed away in May following a period of declining health. Although not a UVM graduate, he enjoyed and participated in all events and was recently remembered at the Octo- ber event. I had a great chat with Ben Aibel and Nancy Aibel who still reside in Manhattan.

It was delightful to hear from Dr. Dagmar Mohlenkamp Langenberg in Freiburg, Germany. He attended UVM in 1970 and is a professor in our class. He also heard from the following classmates:

- Gladys Clark Severance 2799 Roosevelt Highway Colchester, VT 05446 severance@road.uvm.edu
- Heidi Stuehr Ballantyne 28 Kent Street Montpelier, VT 05602 hedi.ballantyne@gmail.com
- Hedi Stuehr Ballantyne 28 Kent Street Montpelier, VT 05602 hedi.ballantyne@gmail.com
- Myron ‘42 lences of our class to the family of Napa, California, who passed away, of Betty and Harry keeping busy with their frequent visitors and attending the symphony and musical shows. I also had a very warm and happy communication from Doro-othy Cole in Shelburne who seems to be enjoying life immensely. Patty Pike Hallock is now living in the Meadows in Rutland, a retired community life immensely. Nancy Aibel who still reside in Manhattan. Ben sticks to campus this past fall had a grand time. I received a note from our classmate, Joan Blakeman, reporting that her husband, Alan, passed away in May following a period of declining health. Although not a UVM graduate, he enjoyed and participated in all events and was recently remembered at the Octo- ber event. I had a great chat with Ben Aibel and Nancy Aibel who still reside in Manhattan.

It was delightful to hear from Dr. Dagmar Mohlenkamp Langenberg in Freiburg, Germany. He attended UVM in 1970 and is a professor in our class. He also heard from the following classmates:

- Gladys Clark Severance 2799 Roosevelt Highway Colchester, VT 05446 severance@road.uvm.edu
- Heidi Stuehr Ballantyne 28 Kent Street Montpelier, VT 05602 hedi.ballantyne@gmail.com
- Hedi Stuehr Ballantyne 28 Kent Street Montpelier, VT 05602 hedi.ballantyne@gmail.com
- Myron ‘42 lences of our class to the family of Napa, California, who passed away, of Betty and Harry keeping busy with their frequent visitors and attending the symphony and musical shows. I also had a very warm and happy communication from Doro-othy Cole in Shelburne who seems to be enjoying life immensely. Patty Pike Hallock is now living in the Meadows in Rutland, a retired community life immensely. Nancy Aibel who still reside in Manhattan. Ben sticks to campus this past fall had a grand time. I received a note from our classmate, Joan Blakeman, reporting that her husband, Alan, passed away in May following a period of declining health. Although not a UVM graduate, he enjoyed and participated in all events and was recently remembered at the Octo- ber event. I had a great chat with Ben Aibel and Nancy Aibel who still reside in Manhattan.

It was delightful to hear from Dr. Dagmar Mohlenkamp Langenberg in Freiburg, Germany. He attended UVM in 1970 and is a professor in our class. He also heard from the following classmates:

- Gladys Clark Severance 2799 Roosevelt Highway Colchester, VT 05446 severance@road.uvm.edu
- Heidi Stuehr Ballantyne 28 Kent Street Montpelier, VT 05602 hedi.ballantyne@gmail.com
- Hedi Stuehr Ballantyne 28 Kent Street Montpelier, VT 05602 hedi.ballantyne@gmail.com
- Myron ‘42 lences of our class to the family of Napa, California, who passed away, of Betty and Harry keeping busy with their frequent visitors and attending the symphony and musical shows. I also had a very warm and happy communication from Doro-othy Cole in Shelburne who seems to be enjoying life immensely. Patty Pike Hallock is now living in the Meadows in Rutland, a retired community life immensely. Nancy Aibel who still reside in Manhattan. Ben sticks to campus this past fall had a grand time. I received a note from our classmate, Joan Blakeman, reporting that her husband, Alan, passed away in May following a period of declining health. Although not a UVM graduate, he enjoyed and participated in all events and was recently remembered at the Octo- ber event. I had a great chat with Ben Aibel and Nancy Aibel who still reside in Manhattan.

It was delightful to hear from Dr. Dagmar Mohlenkamp Langenberg in Freiburg, Germany. He attended UVM in 1970 and is a professor in our class. He also heard from the following classmates:

- Gladys Clark Severance 2799 Roosevelt Highway Colchester, VT 05446 severance@road.uvm.edu
- Heidi Stuehr Ballantyne 28 Kent Street Montpelier, VT 05602 hedi.ballantyne@gmail.com
- Hedi Stuehr Ballantyne 28 Kent Street Montpelier, VT 05602 hedi.ballantyne@gmail.com
- Myron ‘42 lences of our class to the family of Napa, California, who passed away, of Betty and Harry keeping busy with their frequent visitors and attending the symphony and musical shows. I also had a very warm and happy communication from Doro-othy Cole in Shelburne who seems to be enjoying life immensely. Patty Pike Hallock is now living in the Meadows in Rutland, a retired community life immensely. Nancy Aibel who still reside in Manhattan. Ben sticks to campus this past fall had a grand time. I received a note from our classmate, Joan Blakeman, reporting that her husband, Alan, passed away in May following a period of declining health. Although not a UVM graduate, he enjoyed and participated in all events and was recently remembered at the Octo- ber event. I had a great chat with Ben Aibel and Nancy Aibel who still reside in Manhattan.

It was delightful to hear from Dr. Dagmar Mohlenkamp Langenberg in Freiburg, Germany. He attended UVM in 1970 and is a professor in our class. He also heard from the following classmates:

- Gladys Clark Severance 2799 Roosevelt Highway Colchester, VT 05446 severance@road.uvm.edu
- Heidi Stuehr Ballantyne 28 Kent Street Montpelier, VT 05602 hedi.ballantyne@gmail.com
- Hedi Stuehr Ballantyne 28 Kent Street Montpelier, VT 05602 hedi.ballantyne@gmail.com
- Myron ‘42 lences of our class to the family of Napa, California, who passed away, of Betty and Harry keeping busy with their frequent visitors and attending the symphony and musical shows. I also had a very warm and happy communication from Doro-othy Cole in Shelburne who seems to be enjoying life immensely. Patty Pike Hallock is now living in the Meadows in Rutland, a retired community life immensely. Nancy Aibel who still reside in Manhattan. Ben sticks to campus this past fall had a grand time. I received a note from our classmate, Joan Blakeman, reporting that her husband, Alan, passed away in May following a period of declining health. Although not a UVM graduate, he enjoyed and participated in all events and was recently remembered at the Octo- ber event. I had a great chat with Ben Aibel and Nancy Aibel who still reside in Manhattan.
University of Vermont at UVM playing trumpet in a swing band, brass ensemble, and concert band, and playing brass in various orchestras. Great fun! I've been in contact with classmates, Mike Zar- chelli, Bob Durley '59, and Steve Duarte '59 quite often, and we now have eight grandchildren and one great-grand- child. My wife and I both enjoy tennis, biking, and to keep fit! “Steve Slater Rosen writes, “I'm finally retired, but Midge and I will do a mis- swing band, brass ensemble, and concert band, Of the many wonderful things here in the sunny south.” Carol Demes wrote, “After Thanks- giving, for two weeks, I joined three other Broad- way stars as headline entertainers on a Broadway and film-themed Crystal Cruise to French Polynesia. We were working, but it was a dream gig and my husband, Stuart Atyn, joined me and had his first real vacation in many years. On our return, I sang for ‘Yolkes of the Air,’ playing Billy Burke in a benefit performance depicting a 1933 radio broadcast of the New York Ziegfeld Society, at the Cutting Room in New York City. My ‘Magic Garden’ cohort and dear friend Paula Luis, and I appeared at Barnes & Noble in Tribeca, in New York, in a special event a nonprofit organization with 400 members com- mitted to help seniors live productive and vibrant lives in their homes. As a post script, I am spend- ing several days each week in the gym doing inter- nal training and pumping a little iron to fend off the Grim Reaper.” Jan Masmunder writes, “I have retired from the practice of neurology in Connecticut and am currently living and keeping busy in New York City. Elaine and I spent most of November in California visit- ing family, celebrating birthdays and Thanksgiving. In December we will spend a few weeks in Australia, visiting Argentina, Chile and Patagonia. Best regards to you all!” Loyal graduate Barbara Skroback writes, “I am in my second year as organist/choirmaster at Saint Michael’s Episcopal Church in Holliston, Mas- sachusetts. I have been given the opportunity to step down as our 2016 hurricane season. ” For infor- mation on including the book, contact the Vermont College of Fine Arts or visit our website, where you can order a signed copy of the book. Thank you for your support and your continued interest in the work of the Vermont College of Fine Arts. We look for- ward to seeing you at our 60th reunion. Send your news to—

UVM Alumni Association
411 Main Street, Burlington, VT 05401

Alumni.uvm.edu/classnotes

61

1. Charles “Chuck” Tierney emails, “My spouse, Bob, and I have lived in Texas for over 20 years. We are retired Federal employees. We have enjoyed New England in the summer and Texas in the winter. We recently attended the marriage of my younger daughter’s fiancé, a medical student, who graduated from the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine in 2015. Chuck and his wife, Carol, have three children, and two grandchildren. The oldest child, a daughter, is a resident at a local hospital, and the youngest is a junior in high school. Life is good!”

Send your news to—

UVM Alumni Association
411 Main Street, Burlington, VT 05401

Alumni.uvm.edu/classnotes

59

Ann K. Solliner died on August 16 at her home. An active member of the Delta Delta Delta sorority, she gradu- ated from UVM and went on to study for a master’s degree at the University of Connecticut School of SocialWork. Ann was passionately concerned with the welfare of other people, and worked as a cri- sis intervention therapist, drug and alcohol coun- selor, and child and family therapist at Nenasket County Family Services, Blue Hills Hospital, Lenox Hill, and St. Peter’s Hospital Addiction Recovery Center. After 18 years in the mental health field, Ann retired in Arlington, Virginia. Frank Hammitt died on Jan 1 after a long illness. Frank was a native of Vermont, and was active in the veteran’s community. He was a member of the American Legion Post 22 in St. Albans, Vermont and was a most colorful personality. He loved to read, write, and have a good time with good friends. His most recent activity was playing in a harmonica quintet with his wife, Joyce. Bill Mitchell writes, “I have received a note to Ann, the address is: 1467 Van Antwerp Rd. Schenectady, NY 12309. I am sure you don’t know something, you can’t use it. Thanks to UVM, professors Greg Falls, Ed Fedorish and Howard Bennett, truly learned that this was to be my life’s work.” Marilyn Vipol writes, “I am still a real estate agent in Manhattan and enjoy living and keeping busy in New York City. Elaine and I spent most of November in California visit- ing family, celebrating birthdays and Thanksgiving. In December we will spend a few weeks in Australia, visiting Argentina, Chile and Patagonia. Best regards to you all!”

Send your news to—

UVM Alumni Association
411 Main Street, Burlington, VT 05401

Alumni.uvm.edu/classnotes

59

62

Lawrence F. Simon continues as director of surgery at Nyack Hospi- tal, almost ready to help. I have one grandchild age 9. I have attended the grandkids trip to your year this August with my kids and their young toddler child. New York City is a wonderful place to visit for the winter. I am thankful for my wonderful group of friends. I continue to travel to the beach in Winter and we have been able to return to the beach in Winter this year and we have tried to do all the things in New York City. A wonderful city full of social, cultural and culinary experiences.”

Send your news to—

Patricia Hoszkiewicz Allen
14 Stone Brook Drive, Richmond, VA 23118

434-444-5803

pberry@dsi.net

Dr. Sumner Silverman has been named Executive Director of cannabis science and medicine from the University of Vermont College of Medicine. Send your news to—

Colleen Denton
144 Main Street, Winchester, VT 05485

collenharrleton@hotmail.com

51

Jeffrey W. Hibner writes, “I studied physics and look where that led us. We need to study globalization and see where that leads.” To that end, Abby recently committed a $144,000 bequest to benefit the Global Studies Program, which has surged in popularity in recent years. In her professional life, Abby worked with students at Eastern Michigan Uni- versity, the university of Wisconsin, University of Pennsylvania and Temple University where she was a College of Liberal Arts academic advisor with special responsibility for international students. That rapport was frequently asked by students. “Why do I need this?” or “What will I do with this?” Her reply? “If you don’t know something, you can’t use it, but the wider your knowledge, the more opportunities you have and the more you bring to your career and life.” As a native Vermonter, Abby values her Vermont heritage but, she explains, also knows the benefits of expanding her horizons and enjoying the riches of engaging in this changing world.”—a sen- timent she hopes to spread through her donation to the Global Studies program, which will fund study abroad experiences and internship opportunities for under- graduates. The cost of travel and program fees and the generally unfunded nature of internships means that not all students can afford to undertake them,” explains Pablo Bose, UVM’s director of Global Stud- ies. “This is why the generosity of Ms. Silverman is so overwhelming, it enables Vermonters and other students who might not otherwise be able to go abroad or take an internship to do so. In a very real sense, what Ms. Abby is provid- ing is the ability for students to learn about the world first-hand, whether at home or abroad.” Abby views us all as citizens of a borderless environment. “To be effective, responsible, and globally aware people,” she reasons, “we need to know, expe- rience and accept that environment.”

Send your news to—

Steve Berry
8 Oakmount Circle, Lexington, MA 02420

steveberrydhs@gmail.com

51

“A Gift of Global Perspective”

“When I hear people say globalization doesn’t work, it puzzles me. Globaliza- tion is like gravity; it just is. Whether it ‘works’ or not is determined by what we do,” explains Faith Abby, Class of 1934. “We studied physics and look where that led us. We need to study globalization and see where that leads.”

Send your news to—

Toni Ciralli Mullins
210 Convover Lane Red Bank, NJ 07701

ticiralli.mullins@verizon.net

51

“I’m wishing you all good health and happy times in 2017. I’m sure you feel as if that time is flying by so very fast.”

Ray Bella writes, “You might remember that I was the editor-in-chief of the Vermont Cynic. Editing it kept me flexible. Getting the facts right is important too. My memo is a bit fuzzy but a big mistake I made by naming the wrong class president on the front page of the Cynic! I think I made the correct choice. Please reply and lift the fuzzy patch in my mind.”

Paul Toussaint and Dorothy Toussaint, note that Paul passed away on Jan 20. He was 90. Paul was a manager for Nestle Purina. Son, Walter, practices cardiology in Atlanta. His wife is an anesthesiologist and their youngest is a junior in high school. Life is excellent.”

Send your news to—

Ray Johnson
1 Oak Hill Road, P.O. Box 63
Harvard, MA 01451

866-856-7275

11 Oakmount Circle, Lexington, MA 02420

Steve Berry

steveberrydhs@gmail.com

51

50

51

50

51
71 I want to apologize for the lack of con-
tact in the last couple of issues, except for Peter Rice. I have been teaching physical education in suburban Maryland. Lorraine Parent-Razu-
no MD75, and Richard Racusin MD75 con-
tinue to enjoy life in suburban Maryland. Lorraine is professor emerita at Johns Hopkins, and still lectures, mostly recently in Turkey. Sue, Chris and Darren Racusin ‘71, still live in California. Chris is engaged to Michelle Yi, both are satellite engi-
neers. Darren is doing internet marketing and is an avid mushroom hunter. Lorraine and Richard plan a trip to travel with plans to visit some classmates in New York. My daughter, Sarah, has been doing a lot of work on her
dermatology in Manhattan. Our oldest grandchild, Townsley, is now 5 1/2 years old and rapidly improving her
chess to the point that he can challenge many additional recreational players. Lorraine Parent Racu-
zino MD75, and Richard Racusin MD75/77 con-
tinue to enjoy life in suburban Maryland. Lorraine is professor emerita at Johns Hopkins, and still lectures, mostly recently in Turkey. Sue, Chris and Darren Racusin ‘71, still live in California. Chris is engaged to Michelle Yi, both are satellite engi-
neers. Darren is doing internet marketing and is an avid mushroom hunter. Lorraine and Richard plan a trip to travel with plans to visit some classmates in New York. My daughter, Sarah, has been doing a lot of work on her
dermatology in Manhattan. Our oldest grandchild, Townsley, is now 5 1/2 years old and rapidly improving her
chess to the point that he can challenge many additional recreational players. Lorraine Parent Racu-
zino MD75, and Richard Racusin MD75/77 con-
tinue to enjoy life in suburban Maryland. Lorraine is professor emerita at Johns Hopkins, and still lectures, mostly recently in Turkey. Sue, Chris and Darren Racusin ‘71, still live in California. Chris is engaged to Michelle Yi, both are satellite engi-
neers. Darren is doing internet marketing and is an avid mushroom hunter. Lorraine and Richard plan a trip to travel with plans to visit some classmates in New York.
Gail Shampnessi ’81

WORK: Director of UVM’s Office of Student Community Relations, Shampnessi was recently honored with Burlington’s Peter Clavelle Award for her “advancement of social equity, environmental stewardship, quality education, economic growth and vitality in Burlington.”

HOME: Burlington, Vermont.

UVM DAYS: An Environmental Studies major, Shampnessi was strongly influenced by a service-learning class that connected her to community when she worked with local kids on Vermont Children’s Magazine.

IN HER WORDS: “I think that the university and our students have the moral imperative and the responsibility to be a good neighbor. When a neighbor says, ‘Wow, those students really care about us; that’s monumental!’”

Read more: go.uvm.edu/shampnessi
Scott A. Lawrence of Jericho, Ver- mont, received an award on October 19, 2016. He was born and raised in West Chester, and was a graduate of the Wel- lows Falls Union High School. Scott went on to UVM, earning a bachelor’s in small business, and Marboro College, earning a master’s in busi- ness administration. He married Danielle Noyes in 1998 in Burlington. Scott was employed as a project manager with IBM for 20 years. Because he believed in the importance of education, he was a professor and chair of the BSMIS and MIS programs at Southern New Hampshire University. Teaching medical students clinical epidemiology and directing clinical research programs, I was recently appointed interim di- rector of JAMA Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery. I am active in clinical research in tumour and immune brain.

Send your news to—

Barbara Roth
roth.barb@yahoo.com

The Penn Club of New York, located in the heart of midtown Manhattan, is dedicated to serving alumni of UVM as their alma mater and a source of pride for the many people whose lives he touched. He volunteered countless hours to many charities and causes. He was captain of a local tennis team. He enjoyed traveling and was a Disney fanatic. He was an avid gaming enthusiast, poker player, brewed his own beer, and loved movies, music, and Monty Python. He was an ordained minister and took great pride in performing marriage ser- vices for a few of his friends. He was a faithful Jets fan and loved going to car races with his father and friends. He recharged his batteries every sum- mer by kayaking, fishing, and taking long wood- mock naps at Lake Groton.

Send your news to—

Gretchen Helfenhurth Brainard
gretchenbrainard@gmail.com

Peter Corradino writes, "In 1998 I received a classed award as a tour guide with Everglades Day Safaris. I spent my winters in the Everglades and my sum- mer as a park naturalist for the Vermont State Parks. From 2002-2007, I worked for the Vermont Institute of Natural Science until I returned to Flor- ida permanently. From 2007-2016, I was the full- time director of operations for Everglades Day Safaris, the onlyscoti certified by the Florida Scuba for ethical tourism. In September 2016 I bought the company. I happily run the business with my wife of eight years, Maria Beth, and am very grateful for the many people whose lives he touched. He was an avid gardening enthusiast, poker player, brewed his own beer, and loved movies, music, and Monty Python. He was an ordained minister and took great pride in performing marriage ser- vices for a few of his friends. He was a faithful Jets fan and loved going to car races with his father and friends. He recharged his batteries every sum- mer by kayaking, fishing, and taking long wood- mock naps at Lake Groton.

Send your news to—

Gretchen Helfenhurth Brainard
gretchenbrainard@gmail.com

Peter Corradino writes, “In 1998 I received a classed award as a tour guide with Everglades Day Safaris. I spent my winters in the Everglades and my sum- mer as a park naturalist for the Vermont State Parks. From 2002-2007, I worked for the Vermont Institute of Natural Science until I returned to Flor- ida permanently. From 2007-2016, I was the full- time director of operations for Everglades Day Safaris, the onlyscoti certified by the Florida Scuba for ethical tourism. In September 2016 I bought the company. I happily run the business with my wife of eight years, Maria Beth, and am very grateful for the many people whose lives he touched. He was an avid gardening enthusiast, poker player, brewed his own beer, and loved movies, music, and Monty Python. He was an ordained minister and took great pride in performing marriage ser- vices for a few of his friends. He was a faithful Jets fan and loved going to car races with his father and friends. He recharged his batteries every sum- mer by kayaking, fishing, and taking long wood- mock naps at Lake Groton.

Send your news to—

Gretchen Helfenhurth Brainard
gretchenbrainard@gmail.com

Peter Corradino writes, “In 1998 I received a classed award as a tour guide with Everglades Day Safaris. I spent my winters in the Everglades and my sum- mer as a park naturalist for the Vermont State Parks. From 2002-2007, I worked for the Vermont Institute of Natural Science until I returned to Flor- ida permanently. From 2007-2016, I was the full- time director of operations for Everglades Day Safaris, the onlyscoti certified by the Florida Scuba for ethical tourism. In September 2016 I bought the company. I happily run the business with my wife of eight years, Maria Beth, and am very grateful for the many people whose lives he touched. He was an avid gardening enthusiast, poker player, brewed his own beer, and loved movies, music, and Monty Python. He was an ordained minister and took great pride in performing marriage ser- vices for a few of his friends. He was a faithful Jets fan and loved going to car races with his father and friends. He recharged his batteries every sum-mer by kayaking, fishing, and taking long wood- mock naps at Lake Groton.

Send your news to—

Gretchen Helfenhurth Brainard
gretchenbrainard@gmail.com

Peter Corradino writes, “In 1998 I received a classed award as a tour guide with Everglades Day Safaris. I spent my winters in the Everglades and my sum-mer as a park naturalist for the Vermont State Parks. From 2002-2007, I worked for the Vermont Institute of Natural Science until I returned to Flor- ida permanently. From 2007-2016, I was the full- time director of operations for Everglades Day Safaris, the onlyscoti certified by the Florida Scuba for ethical tourism. In September 2016 I bought the company. I happily run the business with my wife of eight years, Maria Beth, and am very grateful for the many people whose lives he touched. He was an avid gardening enthusiast, poker player, brewed his own beer, and loved movies, music, and Monty Python. He was an ordained minister and took great pride in performing marriage ser- vices for a few of his friends. He was a faithful Jets fan and loved going to car races with his father and friends. He recharged his batteries every sum-mer by kayaking, fishing, and taking long wood- mock naps at Lake Groton.

Send your news to—

Gretchen Helfenhurth Brainard
gretchenbrainard@gmail.com

Peter Corradino writes, “In 1998 I received a classed award as a tour guide with Everglades Day Safaris. I spent my winters in the Everglades and my sum-mer as a park naturalist for the Vermont State Parks. From 2002-2007, I worked for the Vermont Institute of Natural Science until I returned to Flor- ida permanently. From 2007-2016, I was the full- time director of operations for Everglades Day Safaris, the onlyscoti certified by the Florida Scuba for ethical tourism. In September 2016 I bought the company. I happily run the business with my wife of eight years, Maria Beth, and am very grateful for the many people whose lives he touched. He was an avid gardening enthusiast, poker player, brewed his own beer, and loved movies, music, and Monty Python. He was an ordained minister and took great pride in performing marriage ser- vices for a few of his friends. He was a faithful Jets fan and loved going to car races with his father and friends. He recharged his batteries every sum-mer by kayaking, fishing, and taking long wood- mock naps at Lake Groton.
Mike Kelley ’09

WORK. A commercial photographer with a focus on architectural work, Mike Kelley’s “Wake Turbulence” side project is a series of composite photographs that assemble multiple images of planes arriving or departing from a particular airport runway into one image. The visually startling results went viral and were aptly dubbed “airplane armadas” by BBC.com.

HOME: Los Angeles, California.

UVM DAYS. Studied environmental studies and studio art. An airplane enthusiast since childhood, his design class projects tended to have an aviation angle, such as creating the color scheme for a fuselage or cabin interior.

IN HIS WORDS. On reactions to his airplane armada photos—“A lot of people are fascinated; a lot of people think it’s an image of what’s wrong with the world. It makes an invisible thing very visible. I think that’s why it resonates.” Read more: go.uvm.edu/kelley

AMSTERDAM SCHIPHOL AIRPORT, POLDER RUNWAY
Lea Sloan ‘12

WORK: Founder/Owner of Good Bird, a sandwich shop in New Orleans’s historic St. Roch Market. Food ratings giant Yelp named Sloan one of 25 under 30. Good Bird’s mission: Refeeding the Industry” for the city of New Orleans in August.

HOME: New Orleans, Louisiana.

UVM DAYS: While earning his UVM degree in entrepreneurship from Community Development & Applied Economics, Sloan started his journey in the food world at a Burlington institution, Leonard’s Pizza.

IN HIS WORDS: “It’s been a busy decade in and out of the kitchen. I have cooked on every continent except Antarctica and on the so-called ‘Maid of the Mist’ cruise, which was pretty amazing. I have enjoyed cooking in front of audiences in St. Louis, Boston, Los Angeles, and Queens, as well as cooking for Ellen DeGeneres and Michael and Susan Dell. I love that I am perpetually learning and growing as a chef and as a person. Cooking is a way of life for me. And I feel very fortunate to be doing what I love for a living.”

Read more: go.uvm.edu/sloan
Jonathan Leo Connor shares, “On November 25, I was promoted to a deputy director at the National Bank of Middleburg.” Jon Lott writes, “In March ’20, I moved to the United States from D.C. to Los Angeles in 17 days, spending less than $1,000. I flew (and flew) as an independent candidate for Massachusetts State Senate.” Marcy Solomon writes, “I am teaching first grade in Winchester, Massachusetts, and pursuing my master’s in early childhood education.” Grace Buckles Eaton and Mike Eaton got hitched this summer in Ludlow, Vermont, surrounded by loved ones and lots of Vermont beer, wine, and food! Send your news to—Grace Buckles Eaton gbeaton@gmail.com


Verna Bristol Williams ’39 of Middleburg, Vermont, July 19, 2016.


Carol Eaton ’44 of Norwich, Vermont, December 6, 2016.


Edward Lee ’56 of Ontario, Canada, South Dakota, October 5, 2016.


Margaret Drechsler Huestis ’75 of Burlington, Vermont, September 6, 2016.


Carolyn Stoffel Packard ’59 of South Burlington, Vermont, November 2, 2016.

Virginia J. Barth ’60 of Scottsdale, Arizona, June 29, 2016.

Wanda Fury Butler ’60 of Sterling, Virginia, November 9, 2016.

George H. Wightman ’77 of Bedford, Massachusetts, August 26, 2016.

Edward Benjamin Timmocetti ’81 of New Hudson, Michigan, October 14, 2016.


Gary Versal ’83 of South Burlington, Vermont, June 12, 2016.

Omar Al-Gabri ’84 of Sparks, Nevada, July 21, 2016.


David Charles Baker ’89 of Salt Lake City, Utah, September 12, 2016.

Mary B. Cross ’90 of Colchester, Vermont, October 12, 2016.


William J. Thosone ’90 of Thetford, Vermont, October 17, 2016.


Michael Patrick Cronogue G’09 of Burlington, Vermont, October 18, 2016.

Steven A. Bernardini ’68, G’77 of Barre, Vermont, October 25, 2016.

James D. Danyow ’15 of Vail, Colorado, October 19, 2016.

David Charles Baker ’89 of Salt Lake City, Utah, September 12, 2016.

William J. Thosone ’90 of Thetford, Vermont, October 17, 2016.

Samuel Chapman Chevalier shares, “I am pursuing a doctorate in engineering mechanics at MIT. I have a strong system stability with Dr. Kotyuz’s systems. Kathryn M. Gray writes, “This is my second year at my dream job! I’ll always remember being a middle school teacher in a rural Vermont school and here I am in Montgomery, Vermont. It’s great to be forward to many more years at this school!” Carey McGuilllan is a project manager at Social Diaries, a digital agency based in Washington, D.C. that creates websites, videos, and social media campaigns. Alex Morton writes, “I have recently moved out to Portland, Oregon, and am working at Otak in their Natural Resources division. I also just started the Portland UVM Alumni Chap- ter. We had our first event in November. It was great to see people old and new on our website for our next meet- ing. We would love to see you all there!” Carina Pinto writes, “I was recently nominated as a UNPKM study session specialist with UNPKM. I am doing my best to help students at this time in the city of Boston for the work I do as a community health worker.”

UVM Alumni Association alumni@uvm.edu/classnotes

UVM COMMUNITY

In Memory of C. Thomas Hoyt ’54, of South Burlington, Vermont, February 13, 2016.

Myra Weinberg Wiedman ’48, of Atlanta, Georgia, August 1, 2016.

Robert Fuller, assistant professor emeritus of wetlands ecology and wildlife management, passed away on January 20, 2017. Professor Fuller joined the UVM faculty in 1966 and developed a wildlife management concentration within the Department of Forestry. He will be remembered by many UVM wildlife and forestry alumni for his wildlife courses and as a mentor who truly cared about his students and was a strong advocate for his students’ success. He retired from full-time teaching in 2010, but remained an emeritus of wetlands ecology and wildlife management concentration.

Dr. Thomas John Spinner, Jr. passed away on December 2, 2016. Dr. Spinner taught law, economics, and business courses at UVM for nearly thirty years. His research led to the publication of George Joann Quanbeck, The Transformation of a Victorian Liberal. A Fulbright in Guyana result- ed in the publication of A Political and Social History of Guyana, 1945-1983. Dr. Spinner helped to organize campus demonstrations against U.S. involvement in Vietnam. Commenting on the death of Dr. Spinner, he coordi- nated efforts to unionize UVM faculty.

Do you have any news to share? Send your news to—alumni@uvm.edu/classnotes
Want to know the passions, interests, favorite diversions of today’s UVM students? Take a stroll through the Davis Center at lunchtime and survey the stickers on the lids of all those glowing laptops. We offer a random sample.
Business education at UVM took a game-changing leap last fall with alumnus Steven Grossman’s landmark $20 million gift. Now, the Grossman School of Business is poised to ascend even higher. The Grossman Challenge seeks to secure $10 million in gifts from other donors. When achieved, Steven Grossman ’61 will donate an additional $5 million.

With a June 30, 2017, deadline, the time is now to maximize your investment in business education at UVM.