Emma Grady ’08 in Lower Manhattan on the way to her new job at Vanity Fair.
President Tom Sullivan addresses the graduates at Commencement 2015 on the Green.

Cover photo by Bobby Bruderle ’11

PRESIDENT’S PERSPECTIVE
THE GREEN
Students help teach Burlington’s newest Americans; Engineering prof explores technologies for safer bridges; a conversation with author Annie Proulx ’69; and more.

CATAMOUNT SPORTS
Close friends, outstanding students, and quite possibly the best line-up of distance runners in UVM history, meet the Fast Five.

TALKING SHOP
Eric Lipton ’87, two-time Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, and Robert Rosenthal ’71, longtime newspaper editor and executive director of the Center for Investigative Reporting, discuss their craft, its role in society, and its future.

NEW YORK CITY 10
Bright lights, very big city. We check in with ten UVM alumni who are making their way and their mark in the Big Apple.

UVM PEOPLE
For thirty years Jane Sarkin ’81 has run the show behind the covers of one of the most striking magazines on the newsstands, Vanity Fair.

IN SEARCH OF THE SMART GRID
Not quite sure what the “smart grid” really means? You’re not alone. We’re here to help with a look at the flow of power and how UVM faculty and alumni are shaping its future in Vermont.

ALUMNI CONNECTION
UVM’s Rainbow grads are urged to keep in touch with the university and fellow alumni, and the growing LGBTQA affinity program makes it that much easier.

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EXTRA CREDIT
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Artists continue to thrive, enrich the UVM experience

The University of Vermont has a long tradition of excellence in the fine arts. Leaders and stewards of the University have invested in the fine arts since well before the Fleming Museum was established in 1929 to house the University’s collection of art and artisans. Janie Cohen, director of the Fleming and noted Picasso scholar, continues this legacy as she employs and teaches the most innovative curatorial technology. This spring, she used a variety of new visual technologies and cultural sources to curate “Standing Back: The Creation and Legacy of Picasso’s Demoiselles d’Avignon.”

The University, with the generosity of alumni and friends, continues to support fine arts across campus. Last summer alumna Michele Cohen ’72 and her husband Martin enabled the University to acquire the Tall School, adjacent to campus, to expand space for Department of Art and Art History. In addition, summer interior renovations will begin in the Music Building and Recital Hall. After celebrating its 40th Anniversary this past fall with a visit and lecture from playwright Tony Kushner, the Department of Theatre will soon begin renovations of its much beloved Royall Tyler Theatre.

Over the last two centuries, UVM has attracted a multitude of artists, writers, and musicians. Our faculty includes poets Stephen Cramer and Major Jackson, author Greg Bottoms, scholar/artist Tina Escaja, composers David Feurzeig and Patricia Julien, and musician and scholar Arthur Pollock. The Lane Series collaborates with the Flynn Theatre to bring world-class performing artists to Burlington, and this is just one of our partnerships that fosters the arts in the community.

Why is it so important for the University as a research institution of higher education to invest in the fine arts? Critics of higher education often complain that the University of Vermont has a long tradition of rewarding careers. New research from Dr. James Hudziak, professor of psychiatry and director of the Vermont Center for Children, Youth and Families, connects brain maturity and creativity. At UVM, we long have known that the fine arts enrich the heart, nourish the spirit, and create a thirst for discovery that extends well beyond college. The arts are essential for a richer understanding and deeper appreciation of the purpose and meaning of life. As we work together to create a bright future for the University, the fine arts will continue to flourish and to stimulate our vibrant community for generations to come.
Students connect with Burlington’s newest Americans

When sophomore Eric Venezia enrolled at UVM to study and play goalie on the men’s soccer team he looked forward to the usual experiences of college life. Befriending a 69-year-old man from Bhutan and helping him become an American citizen wasn’t among them.

The unlikely relationship between Venezia, a secondary education major, and Saran Chhetri, a rice farmer in his native Bhutan who now lives in Burlington after fifteen years in a refugee camp in Nepal, was forged during a service-learning course taught by Barri Tinkler, assistant professor of education. Every Thursday evening students in her “Citizenship and Education in the U.S.” class met at the O’Brien Community Center in Winooski to help adult refugees from Russia, Bhutan, Uganda, Nepal, South Sudan, Vietnam, and other countries prepare for the U.S. citizenship test. Tinkler, who started teaching the course a year ago, added the service-learning component in the fall after volunteering as a tutor at the citizenship class herself. She worked closely with Gabe McGann, a doctoral student in the Educational Leadership and Policy Studies program, who started the citizenship class in Winooski through the non-profit Serve Burlington.

“It has been an incredible experience to work with Saran,” says Venezia, who completed twenty-five field hours of tutoring as part of the course. “We have a mutual respect for each other and just enjoy working together. It’s powerful to know that it could have a direct impact on his life if he gets citizenship.”

Before Tinkler brings students to the O’Brien Center, she provides an overview of the immigration and naturalization processes in the United States with a focus on the refugee system and related educational policies for English learners. Students examine theories about second language acquisition and how these theories support or conflict with current debates in the field of educational policy. Tinkler saw the opportunity to join forces with McGann as a way of giving life to the course content.

“The course content is designed to help students understand how the system works,” says Tinkler. “Once they understand it better, I wanted them to talk to people who are actually in the system. It’s a way of connecting the policy to the person and putting a face on the individuals that it affects. I also want students to understand how resilient the refugee population is by bearing about it first-hand.”

Although most students reported feeling some initial anxiety about tutoring someone one old enough to be their grandparent, it’s not detectable on a spring evening at the O’Brien Center. The atmosphere is loose, warm, and full of humor as students and their mentees sit around connecting tables listening to McGann give instructions at the front of the room.

Members of the class are excited to hear that when they become a U.S. citizen they could run for public office. “You could become the mayor of Burlington, Saran!” shouts McGann as members of the class yell out words of encouragement for his candidacy. Saran Chhetri raises his hands in the air before shyly covering a huge smile.

National Science Foundation support advances Eric Hernandez’s work on bridge safety.

“The height of rush hour, on the evening of August 1, 2007, an eight-lane dressed truss bridge over the Mississippi River in Minneapolis suddenly collapsed. Dozens of vehicles plunged into the water, and thirteen people died. Eric Hernandez, an expert on structural engineering at the University of Vermont, wants to make sure this doesn’t happen on another bridge.

Combining novel algorithms with existing sensor technologies, he’s developing new, lower-cost techniques to interpret the vibrations in bridges and buildings. His goal is to create affordable tools for engineers and regulators to more accurately forecast the remaining life of a structure—whether it’s a decades-old bridge or an earthquake-shaken building.

To support his research, the National Science Foundation granted Hernandez, an assistant professor in the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences, a five-year, $500,000 Faculty Early Career Development Award. “We want to know: can we accurately estimate when a structure will fail? Then we’d be able to step back and say, ‘it has between twelve and fourteen years left of service. We should plan now so that in ten years it has been replaced,’” Hernandez says. “Right now that information is often not known.”

Engineers had inspected the Minneapolis bridge annually and were concerned about its condition—it was slated to be replaced in 2020. But they didn’t expect, nor were they able to forecast, its catastrophic failure.

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COMMENCEMENT 2015
Nearly three thousand brand new UVM alumni received their diplomas—undergrad, grad, and MD—on May 17. The main ceremony was held on the Green with National Public Radio’s Nina Totenberg delivering the graduation address. See VQ online for a link to a collective blast of social media (kvmgrad) that captures the spirit of the milestone day.

Guitar brings the experience of one who has worked to overcome a stutter in his own life. Danra Kazenksi ‘06 was among the many alumni, colleagues, and clients in the community who wrote in support of Guitar’s Kidder nomination. “If you dabble around on Google, you will find a seemingly endless number of pages with contributions from Barry to the field. Barry is basically a superstar. But when you interact with him, he is so human, personable, and selfless that it makes you feel like you have direct access to a gentle powerhouse of knowledge who will also look you in the eyes and listen whole heartedly as a friend.”

The George V. Kidder Outstanding Faculty Award is named in honor of the late Dean Emeritus George V. Kidder ’22, who served UVM for more than seventy years. It has been given annually by the UVM Alumni Association since 1974.
HELPING TELL SCIENCE’S POWERFUL STORY

Acted actor Alan Alda spoke at UVM early in the spring semester about how to get the public to fall in love with science—and why they often don’t. Then, he and a team of communications experts worked with UVM scientists on campus the next day to help them do the same: practice skills to make their research exciting to people outside their own discipline.

Many people remember Alda from his starring television roles in “West Wing” and as Army doctor Hawkeye Pierce in the hit series “MASH.” But communicating Science, formed in 2009 at Stony Brook University, is—TV reporter, undergraduate classroom, cocktail party friend, or a National Science Foundation program officer—you need to enjoy the playful connection with another real person,” Alda said. “Too often we get stuck in our own head.”

To help, Alda Center staff led teams of faculty through theatre-style improvisation exercises that required close attention to the experience and action of others in the room. They also had practice sessions to distill the core of each faculty member’s message about their research, and brief lectures on fundamentals of good storytelling.

The daylong communications workshop drew dozens of science faculty from UVM and other Vermont colleges, including Johnson State and Middlebury. It was the first of several workshops that will be held on campus. Future sessions will include more faculty in the sciences and capacity to tell stories. “What’s at stake? So what?” Alda said. Science is an unfolding story of tremendous power, he said, but “you have to give us a reason to care about your research.”

Too often, he noted, scientists try to prepare with an inflexible script. “We have to give us a reason to care about your research.”

“My fishing in Mongolia for the world’s largest trout species, Hucho taimen, may be a fly fisherman’s dream, but for Frances Iannucci, a senior honors student in UVM’s Rubenstein School of Environmental and Natural Resources, it was all about serious research last summer. Mongolia’s inland rivers, including the Ulg-Uur, are some of the last strongholds for taimen, an endemic trout that can reach up to six feet and weigh 230 pounds.

“Mongolia was fascinating,” Iannucci says. “Standing in Ulaan Bator, the capital, you can see where the city just stops and the grassy steppes begin. There is only one fisheries biologist in all of Mongolia. I felt that our team was a bridge to conservation there.”

Iannucci, who began her college career as an environmental science major, switched to fisheries after a summer working for the Rubenstein Ecosystem Science Lab on Lake Champlain. “I always knew I was more interested in what lived in the water than the water itself,” she said. Professor Jason Stockwell’s research work on food webs in Lake Champlain got her interested on climate impacts to the lake’s fisheries. Specifically, she looked at cyanobacteria blooms. Blooms increase with nutrient pollution and warming waters, possibly disrupting natural diversity and displacing higher value food sources. Her UVM thesis was shaped by her study of taimen in Mongolia.

“There are major gaps in knowledge of taimen,” Iannucci says. “Taimen use a variety of foods, from fish and aquatic insects, to terrestrial foods—even birds and mammals, for example, but little is known about their relative importance. By looking at stable carbon isotope signatures, she hoped to identify the taimen’s principal foods.”

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White House shoutout
First-year student Gina Fiorile was among eight Americans honored at the White House in February for their extraordinary work to enhance climate education and literacy across the country. The eight “Champions of Change for Climate Education and Literacy” were cited for “inspiring students, educators, and citizens to learn about climate change and to develop and implement solutions.” Awarded included high school and middle school teachers, university professors, non-profit and national park workers. Fiorile was the only student.

As a high school student in Saranac Lake, New York, Fiorile was instrumental in planning the Wild Center’s Adirondack Youth Climate Summit—the subject of the documentary The Resilient Ones, produced by Mountain Lake PBS and Bright Blue EcoMedia with Jon Erickson, UVM professor of ecological economics. The summit educates students and their teachers about the impact of climate change and invites attendees to create climate action plans to lower the carbon footprint of their own schools.

As a University of Vermont first-year student majoring in environmental studies, Fiorile has helped Erickson bring that model to Vermont. She served as a consultant in environmental studies, Fiorile has helped Erickson in their communities.

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broaden to other disciplines, including the humanities. As part of the new relationship, UVM is also in discussion with the Alda Center for possible semester-long communications classes developed for graduate students.

Alda’s lecture was part of the Dan and Carole Burack President’s Distinguished Lecture Series.

[CMERED]

A NOVEL APPROACH TO “WHAT’S NEXT?”

Designing Your Life, an innovative class on creative decision-making, spawned at Stanford University, has sparked significant buzz. Fast Company calls it no less than “the future of higher education.”

UVM students are getting a taste of this future thanks to Eugene Korunsky, who co-taught DYL at Stanford while earning his master’s of fine arts. Korunsky came to Burlington when his wife accepted a faculty post at UVM and has imported the DYL course with him.

“Eugene has a great teaching style and an ability to put students at ease with this sometimes challenging material,” says Stanford’s Bill Burnettt, DYL’s co-creator and a former designer for Apple.

Together with Dave Evans, who co-invented the mouse for Apple, Burnett developed the DYL concept. Essentially, it’s about creative decision-making: using a multidimensional and outside-the-box approach to solve a “wicked problem.” The design-thinking focus of the course means that instead of simply saying “I want to be in finance” and applying to Manhattan-based financial firms, students are taught to create “An Odyssey Plan” that takes into account many other facets of their future life—including feelings.

Burnett cites research demonstrating how Stanford’s DYL lowered dysfunctional career beliefs, increased students’ ability to be more creative, and improved career self-efficacy. “We also receive emails from students one to three years after the class indicating they are still using the tools that they were taught,” he says, “and that they feel that they are more at ease with their career and life progress than their peers.”

The course has quickly found a following at UVM—due to both content and the charismatic teacher. Korunsky began instructing three sections at UVM spring semester and reminds each of his sections that part of their homework is to tell their friends about “Design Your Life.” Word is already out, however, with the fall course quickly filling near capacity.

With the potpourri of philosophies from Annie Dillard to Zappos CEO Tony Hsieh, there’s plenty of gray matter at work here. But does it leave too much gray area for students who’ll need actual greenbacks to survive once they graduate? “This class is not about helping students build a roadmap for a career,”

CASTING SHADOWS

Thomas Brennan, professor of art, describes his recent work as “photogenic drawing,” the original term coined by Henry Fox Talbot in 1835. “I like using that term for this work, because it establishes a historical place for the ideas,” Brennan says. “Many of the images in this room are about collection and display. They are very early nineteenth century. That’s when natural history museums begin to be created and have a place in the public imagination.”

Brennan’s shadow images—which range from birds in museum collections to an electron density map of penicillin to an 1860s model of the solar system—were on display this spring at Burlington City Arts on Church Street.

Read more about Brennan’s work: uvm.edu/vq

American Bittern, Botaurus lentiginosus (courtesy of Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University)
has a unique way of helping us...
On her Mark
Mary Norris pens a piece on punctuation, grammar, and good humor
By Sarah Tuff Dunn

ook at them as not so much bookends of the life of Mary Norris C’79, but as bookmarks. One, her mother’s Friday trips to the beauty parlor, which inspired a funny first-grade story that got her father laughing out loud. The other, when Norris began reading The New Yorker while pursuing her master’s in English at UVM. “I hope to move people,” she says, “but more, to make people laugh.”

And Norris accomplishes both in Between You & Me: Confusions of a Comma Queen (WW Norton & Company), her 20th-page book that is as much about tickling our funny bones as it is teaching us a few thing about dashes, diacritics and, yes, dairy cows. Raised in Cleveland and dreaming of the “placid yet productive life” of bovines, she drove a milk truck until she moved to the Green Mountains for graduate school. “I think what I re-member most about Vermont was that it went down below one degree, and never climbed higher for months,” Norris says with a laugh during a phone interview. “But my studies at UVM on James Thurber did help me land a job at The New Yorker.”

And so it was that the hidden implications of black and white punctuation marks and spelling rather than the hides of cows, become Norris’s milieu during a nearly forty-year-career at The New Yorker. Part memoir, part instruction manual, and part a party celebrating the pleasures of Webster’s and baffling beauty of the English language, Between You & Me was and is not meant to be, says Norris. Sure, she intended to become a writer while studying at UVM, but it wasn’t until the serendipity of The New Yorker expanding its website and encouragement from senior editor John Bennett that she began penning pieces along with the copy editor’s red pen of correction.

“I am not a guerrilla copy editor,” says Norris, referring to the use of “flower” instead of “flour” on the manuscript for spelling, having earned her first break at the course, which she illustrates with this confusing conundrum: “Temporary usage. ‘Another pet peeve is comma placement, of course, of course, of course, of course,’ she writes. ‘A misspelling undermines your authority.’

Note the use of those em dashes, another topic of discussion. ‘Dashes, like table forks, come in different sizes, and there is proper use for each,’ she writes. (Not that Norris is always proper. Chapter 6, ‘Pick this oh-c’c examines the more colorful language creeping into the everyday: ‘Has the casual use of profanity in English reached a high tide? That’s a rhetorical question, but I’m going to answer it anyway: F*** yeah.’

Looking back, Norris admits that “it was not easy” to write her first book, rising early and aiming to craft “shapely chapters with using the copy editor’s red pen of correction. “You have to choose one or the other. I did consciously choose one and the other. I did consciously choose to start a large novel some years ago. I’d been thinking about it for ten years or so, but finally started actually doing the research about five years ago, and finally started actually doing the writing three years ago, and I hope I’ll be finished next week. Yeah, you’re conscious of what you’re going to be working on. I look forward to going back to short stories maybe— or maybe not.”

A Conversation with Annie Proulx

When celebrated writer Annie Proulx ’69, author of works such as The Shipping News and “Brokeback Mountain,” returned to her alma mater to receive an honorary degree at this spring’s commencement, we welcomed the opportunity for a half-hour interview. Sitting in Waterman’s Phi Beta Kappa Room after the morning graduation ceremony, Proulx talked with Vermont Quarterly editor Tom Weaver about her move to the Pacific Northwest, UVM days falling in love with art history research, and a novel-in-progress that she hopes is days away from completion.

VQ: You’ve said that reading deeply and widely is the first step to learning to write. Do you remember the first moment reading really impacted you?

AP: Yes, I do. It was Jack London’s Before Adam, which I read when I was about eight. It’s a quite strong book. It is an adult book full of red and tooth and nail stuff about primitive hominids, not quite cave man. One of the chief characters, a creature named Redeye, was very much the boss of everything and was devoted to snatching up women and carrying them away and killing whoever got in his way. So for an eight-year-old this was pretty interesting stuff (laughs) and, yeah, it made a big impact on me. I didn’t realize that books could do that sort of thing because I’d just been reading The Bobbsey Twins and so forth. So, yes, that was a moment in reading, a great moment.

VQ: I recall that you were involved with research with Fleming Museum collections as an undergraduate. What were the places that resonated with you at UVM and in Burlington?

AP: Hmmmm, (laughs quietly). Well, the library was my thing. I loved the library. One of the most marvelous things that I discovered—and I really got thrilled by this—when I was writing this book was that there were a lot of old first editions in the attic—and it was just really, really, really, really, really impactful. Yes, I do. It was Jack London’s Before Adam, which I read when I was about eight. It’s a quite strong book. It is an adult book full of red and tooth and nail stuff about primitive hominids, not quite cave man. One of the chief characters, a creature named Redeye, was very much the boss of everything and was devoted to snatching up women and carrying them away and killing whoever got in his way. So for an eight-year-old this was pretty interesting stuff (laughs) and, yeah, it made a big impact on me. I didn’t realize that books could do that sort of thing because I’d just been reading The Bobbsey Twins and so forth. So, yes, that was a moment in reading, a great moment.

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VQ: Similar accidents happen with a print dictionary.

AP: Serendipitous knowledge.

VQ: Serendipitous knowledge.

VQ: You’ve expressed the thought that the short story is in some way more difficult, though underappreciated, medium than the novel. Through your career have you varied your focus on the two to mix up the demands or just followed the story that seemed to want to be written next?

AP: There are a thousand projects in mind, but at some point you have to choose one or the other. I did consciously choose to start a large novel some years ago. I’d been thinking about it for ten years or so, but finally started actually doing the research about five years ago, and finally started actually doing the writing three years ago, and I hope I’ll be finished next week. Yeah, you’re conscious of what you’re going to be working on. I look forward to going back to short stories maybe—or maybe not.
It took a few minutes for Fletcher Hazlehurst to get his head around what associate track and cross country coach Joe Gingras ’99 had just told him and four of his teammates—that they had the potential to be the best circle of distance runners to ever compete for UVM.

That was two years ago. Since then, Hazlehurst and junior classmates Aaron Anderstrom, Oliver Scofield, Dan Moroney, and Thomas O’Leary have dedicated much of their collegiate lives—starting each day with a 5 a.m. run—to making that lofty prediction come true. “It’s something that motivates us to work together,” says Hazlehurst, an all-New England selection at 10,000 meters. “It pitches me up to be part of something this big. We’re all good individual runners, but to be here together and doing all these things as a group is what makes it so exciting.”

Thus far, the “fast five” has lived up to their billing by rewriting the record books and closing in on a UVM distance record between 800 and 10,000 meters. They attribute their success to hard work, but also their closeness as athletes, students, and friends. They pretty much live, eat, run, study, and socialize together while sharing three rooms on the same floor in Converse Hall. “We pretty much run up and down the corridor, whose 5,000-meter time of 14:40 is third fastest in school history. “We just choose to run a lot.”

Gingras, who describes his runners as a “mad scientist” always tinkering with their training regimen, calls the group a coach’s dream. “They go about things,” says head track and field coach Matt Belfield. “They are serious about school and serious about running. They love the sport and the team, and are true UVM guys.”

Belfield, who also singles out two-time America East 4000-meter hurdles champion Mallory Duncan and 110-meter hurdle and heptathlon star Martin Kallur as catalysts for his program’s rise, is careful about anointing the group as the best ever. But, he says, from a statistical standpoint it’s hard to argue otherwise. “You have to give credit to different generations—like Ray Allen and his contemporaries from the mid-1990s who were on championship teams, but quantitatively speaking, there’s no question this year’s junior class is the best.”

If anyone would know, it would have to be Larry Kimball, who served as the UVM distance coach from 1990-98 and is considered the unofficial historian of Vermont running. He grew up watching the Archie Post-coached teams of the mid-1950s to early 1960s and considers them to be the standard by which all other UVM teams are measured with consideration also being given to some of the teams from the early 1970s and 80s.

“The Archie Post teams that won New England and Yankee Conference titles are the gold standard, but it’s hard to compare generations,” says Kimball, now head field and track coach at the University of South Carolina-Beaufort. “This current group definitely stacks up with anyone in the past.”
Lipton’s first Pulitzer came in 1992 when he was honored for explanatory journalism in a Hartford Courant series on flaws in the Hubble Telescope. The latest prize recognizes Lipton’s series on aggressive efforts by lobbyists and lawyers to push state attorneys general to drop investigations, change policies, negotiate favorable settlements, or pressure federal regulators to benefit their clients.

Lipton in London on assignment, Rosenthal in the Berkeley, California, CIR offices, and Vermont Quarterly editor Tom Weaver midway between, connected for a conference call to discuss Lipton’s recent Pulitzer-winning work and the state of investigative journalism in a quicksilver media age.

ROSENTHAL: Eric, how did you get started on the attorney general story?
LIPTON: It began with a lobbyist who came to us. She was appalled by the solicitations that she was getting from both the Republican and Democratic attorneys general associations in order to get private access to state attorneys general on behalf of her clients. This was a lobbyist who deals with all of the game-playing in D.C. and, even so, was appalled by the fact that state attorneys general, people with subpoena power, were expecting her to make $125,000 contributions to get one-on-one access to the top state law enforcement officials.

To think that a U.S. attorney would do such a thing, it is just impossible to contemplate. The fact that their equivalents on a state level were playing that sort of cash for access game was astounding.

VQ: As you pursued it, was there a particular point when you realized you really had the story?
LIPTON: Yeah, there were many points like that along the way when I was so excited I found myself walking around the office sharing with other people the amazing sort of stuff that I had found. For example, I got copies of correspondence between an energy company and a state attorney general, and he had stripped out all of the attachments, which had the letters that he was sending to Washington. Only after I got the attachments could I see that the letters he had sent were replicas of the ones the energy company had given him to write, and he had essentially just put his signature on them. That was the moment that I realized that I had the kind of information I needed to deliver the story.
THE ABILITY TO TELL A COMPLICATED STORY IN A NARRATIVE FORM AND MAKE IT ACCESSIBLE AND MAKE IT FLOW IS A GREAT SKILL. IT BROADENS THE AUDIENCE AND THE IMPACT OF AN IMPORTANT STORY LIKE THAT.

pens is that once someone like Eric has the credibility within journalism, then people start coming to you. There are amazing stories we both could tell. I remember when I was statehouse reporter at the Boston Globe I literally got a phone call in which the guy said, “Meet me on the corner of Tremont and Beacon at 5 o’clock and I’ll be driving a gray Chevy.” And you go, “What?” Then he repeats it and says, “I’m serious, and you do it.” That was a case where a guy literally handed me a box of documents that led to a complete disembowelment of the Massachusetts legislature. That was totally good luck. I’d done some good reporting, and it turned out the guy had an amazing stack of documents.

VQ: How did your perspective change after you became an editor working with investigative reporters?

ROSENTHAL: One of the things I always mention to reporters when they get sources rather than a document or data search, is think about motivation and the reality, as factual as you want to be, human nature comes into any kind of story. An editor really needs to be there to ask questions and to push back. I think one of the most difficult things in any newspaper and for any editor is when a very good reporter really believes they have something. When you push back and really question the story, it raises doubts about your credibility. But you really have to stick to the facts. Some of the most difficult things I’ve been involved in, honestly, were killing a story. It wasn’t there. When you get down to the end game, you couldn’t prove it. I’ve been on both ends of that, circumstances as a reporter when an editor told me, this isn’t going to work unless you get this, this, and this, and you just don’t have it. My Morley Safer brain said this isn’t going to work.

LIPTON: Both of the Pulitzer stories I’ve worked on involved editors who were really great partners in terms of making choices in the whole process. And I think Bob’s point is really well taken that understanding the motives of your sources is critical. You can get so convinced of your facts sometimes that you can start to ignore contrary information, and that’s dangerous. I think a good editor recognizes when he or she needs to pull in the reins a bit and force you to second guess your own evidence.

VQ: For both of you, I’d like to hear about the point when you transition from investigating a story to writing it.

LIPTON: For me, writing is the hardest part of what I do. I tend to have collected so much information and even so many lines of potential narrative characters that I could sketch, it is really a very hard process. I’ve got all kinds of tricks of working on a park bench in Farragut Square or going to a coffee shop to try to force myself to just get something down. I find it easy to write a straight news story—the thing happened today, you just kind of put the facts in order, and then you send it along, leave the office and go home for the day.

But a large investigative story is a different matter. But, you know, writing has always been hard for me even back to high school and in college. Still today, having been a writer now for twenty-five years (laughs), it’s still hard. ROSENTHAL: I think what Eric is brilliant at and, obviously, very successful at, is the storytelling. You have to have a great sense of, if you know how to get the beginner, the middle, and the data and documents and, hopefully, the sources and sources, but the ability to tell a complicated story in a narrative form and make it accessible and make it flow is a great skill. It broadens the audience and the impact of an important story like that.

Personally, writing is always hard. But I like to write. I’m sorry to say that in some ways I really stopped being a reporter at a pretty early age and got pulled into editing. I feel that writing is a craft and you get better, better, and better at it as you do more and as you get more experience.

VQ: Looking broadly at the state of investigative journalism in the United States, a paper like the Times has the resources to put Eric on an in-depth story that will take months to report and write. But what are your thoughts on what’s happening with smaller papers?

LIPTON: The United States used to be filled with great large papers and great regional papers. There were multi-layers of great newspapers that had multi-levels of daily and investigative reporting and it just is vanishing. It is really depressing.

ROSENTHAL: The lack of public service journalism on a local level throughout the United States, even on a county level, is really appalling and it is a problem. What we are trying to do here (at the Center for Investigative Reporting) as a non-profit is think very differently. It is a whole different conversation about what we call engagement. We have to be able to show the people who support us that there’s impact and something happens. We’re non-partisan; we’re not advocates; we do very high-standard, traditional, fact-based reporting, but we really experiment in how we tell stories and reach an audience. Our business model is based on serving the public interest in the most simple, direct way.

Our audience is not always the big audience, it is the audience that can get involved and create change. Impact for us can be getting a source or getting a byline. But what are you doing? You can become part of a curriculum in a school, that’s a good thing.

VQ: You both, each in your own way, graduated into very different times for daily newspaper journalism. What do you tell today’s Cynic student hoping for a career in journalism?

LIPTON: Well, I would tell them that there are still opportunities, but you can’t just think of a newspaper as your career track. It is very different now. You can write or tell a story on whatever platform and tell it well, you can self-publish in a way now that you never could before. How you make money is a complicated question. But I think in the new media landscape there are lots of opportunities. It is just a really different world.

I do think the role of investigative journalism in this country is crucial and it is at risk because of the business model. People often don’t understand what we do and frequently don’t like journalists. So I think the more someone like Eric or myself goes out and talks to people about the public service aspect of journalism, the better it is for our whole society.

VQ: I’m reading recently that the number of trade press reporters in a city like Washington or New York has actually grown. Specialization has occurred in all of the blogs and web-based trade press as regional newspapers, because of the tremendous loss in revenue from the departure of print advertising, have seen enormous reductions in staff and, therefore, much less opportunity for young reporters out of college to get jobs.

After graduating from UVM, I got a job at The Valley News in Lebanon, New Hampshire. Typically, that was the path—that is a job at a small regional newspaper, go to the bigger regional newspaper, then try to go to the national newspaper. That pathway is really, really hard nowadays. The upward mobility possibilities in that kind of chain, to me, it just doesn’t exist.

The pathway now is to go and get a job at a blog or an online publication and develop an online character, a personality, and then take that to a mainstream daily newspaper. So there are still avenues, it is just a very different process than it used to be from my perspective.

SO I THINK THE MORE SOMEONE LIKE ERIC OR MYSELF GOES OUT AND TALKS TO PEOPLE ABOUT THE PUBLIC SERVICE ASPECT OF JOURNALISM, THE BETTER IT IS FOR OUR WHOLE SOCIETY.

Josh Prince, another grad from my era who is now the CEO of a global advertising firm in New York, and I are always marveling at how many people from UVM have ended up in and been very successful in the media world—from book publishers to magazines to newspapers and advertising. On one of our recent visits to UVM we engaged in a conversation to try to understand what is the case. We both have the conclusion that it has a lot to do with the independent spirit that is natural to Vermont, the second-guessing, the willingness to be a skeptical reporter on the Cynic staff. It’s the after graduation that translates into making your own way, pursuing your own path, and doing it in a way that allows you to express your creativity. For Josh and me and many of our friends, that is something we took away with us from UVM and our experience living in Vermont.
Gary Green is a Long Island native, lives and works in Manhattan, and says, "There is no city in the world where the opportunity is as great and the pace is as fast as New York. Once you work here, I think it would be impossible to work anywhere else."

But this decidedly New York-minute guy finds his balance 1,200 miles away in Omaha, Nebraska. Green, CEO of Alliance, a building cleaning and maintenance company that has thousands of employees and services properties that include Citi Field, home to the New York Mets, leads a dual professional existence of sorts. He is also the owner of two minor league baseball teams—Richmond, Virginia’s Flying Squirrels and Omaha’s Storm Chasers.

The key to living in New York, Green says, is escaping it on a fairly regular basis. "You need to have a readjustment, get out for things to slow down. No matter how I leave New York, when I come back from the Midwest, I’m always in better shape mentally."

None other than Warren Buffett offered Green a key tutorial in Midwest 101. The legend of the financial world was among the previous owners of the Omaha Storm Chasers. For the press conference announcing ownership transition, Green asked Buffett if he would introduce him as the new owner of the team, perhaps helping the community accept the out-of-towner.

Buffett agreed to do it, but first had a word of advice. Green pauses and laughs as he recalls the moment. "When Warren Buffett says ‘let me tell you something,’ you make sure there is silence and that you listen."

Buffett’s wisdom: "You may own this team, but never forget that this team belongs to Omaha."

While Green relishes his visits to Omaha during baseball season and the chances to connect with players and fans, he’s also set sail in the Twitterverse (@ChasersOwner) with a following at 36,000 and climbing as a regular way to connect with the community.

Meanwhile back in New York, Green’s days at his offices on 36th Street between Fifth and Sixth avenues, are a far cry from when he spun the maintenance business out of his family’s SL Green Real Estate, beginning with eight employees and a basement office on Second Avenue.

He describes his job as one of those typified by a lack of typical days, with everything from client relations for the business services operation to weighing in on the design of a minor league championship ring drawing his attention. "I juggle and balance a lot," Green says. "I love all the businesses that I’m in."

New York City—8.5 million people living and working within three-hundred-some square miles— the diversity of individuals and endeavors is staggering. In this issue, we take a look at how ten UVM alumni have made their way in the Big Apple.

By Thomas Weaver
Photographs by Bobby Bruderle ’11
LENI STECKLER LIFTIN ’64
LONGTIME PROTOCOL DIRECTOR
NYC MAYOR’S OFFICE

Every job has its day. But hosting back-to-back meetings with Silvio Berlusconi and Vladimir Putin rises to a special level on the
challenge index. That day, some months in the wake of 9/11, was
one of many memorable experiences in Leni Liffin’s two decades work-
ing as director of protocol and assistant commissioner in the New York
City Mayor’s Office, where she served mayors Rudolph Giuliani and
Michael Bloomberg, as well as Bill de Blasio.

Her role, Liffin explains, included the myriad considerations and
logistics when foreign dignitaries meet with New York City’s mayor. As
protocol director, Liffin prioritized the requests, vetted them with the
U.S. State Department, arranged, and attended the meetings. With typi-
cal understatement, Liffin says, “It was an opportunity to see some very
interesting people, how they speak, and what they’re like in a very infor-
mal setting.”

Those very interesting people included Margaret Thatcher, Mikhail
Gorbachev, Benjamin Netanyahu, secretaries general of the United
Nations, and many heads of state and foreign ambassadors.

The Berlusconi-Putin double header was complicated by the fact that the
Italian president was late to his meeting (as was his habit, Liffin adds).
Keeping on schedule meant a last-minute helicopter flight to Randall’s
Island, where Russian Premier Vladimir Putin would join Mayor Bloom-
berg and other leaders in a post-9/11 ceremony honoring NYC firefighters.

Recalling the terrorist attacks on the towers of the World Trade
Center on September 11, 2001, Liffin’s voice fills with emotion. As she
stepped out of the downtown subway station not far from City Hall that
morning, she saw the towers on fire, heard the sirens, the panic in the
streets; she went to her office, where she watched television alone as the
towers crumbled and moments later all went black outside her window,
then white with dust.

In the weeks and months to follow, Liffin would coordinate trips to
Ground Zero by Mayor Giuliani and foreign dignitaries paying their
respects. “The first time I went there, I cried my eyes out,” she says. “You
can’t imagine what it looked like. It was the most unforgettable experi-
ence I’ve ever had.”

While the tragedy of the day struck Liffin on a human level and would
add a new level of challenge, and mission, to her professional life, one
sees that it also reached her deeply as a Brooklyn native and longtime
Manhattan resident.

Liffin puts it simply: “I love New York.” And though she is now retired
from the Mayor’s Office, she has no plans to leave the city. She’s doing
consulting work, and Liffin, an accomplished artist before her career in
city government, is also picking up her paint brush again.

FINANCE, THEATER, FASHION—New York City can lay claim
to being the global center in a wide array of fields. But
“Food Delivery Capital of the World” is likely not a dis-
tinction that comes to mind for most. Sanford “Sandy” Plot-
kin would be an exception.

“New York is where people order food any time of day or
night. Whether it’s sushi or pizza, this is where the business
is,” Plotkin says. And there’s a very good chance that New
Yorkers, and millions of more people throughout the United
States and worldwide, find their food piping hot on arrival
thanks to Sandy Plotkin and his team of employees at Car-
ryHot USA, the world’s top manufacturer of insulated food
delivery bags, headquartered in Manhattan on West 33rd.
CarryHot’s success story begins, you might guess, with a
cold pizza. But first some background: Sandy Plotkin’s father
founded Avon Belt and Trimming Co. in 1931. They manu-
factured parachute straps for the military during World War
II, and later grew and morphed into the world’s third leading
belt manufacturer with licenses such as Christian Dior.

Avon was a highly successful enterprise. But that
changed—slowly, then quickly—as the garment business
moved to where the labor was cheapest. As he tells it, Plotkin
was at home, depressed about his dwindling business, poun-
dering what was next. He ordered a pizza that was delivered
fatefully cold. The Aha Moment. Plotkin realized he had the
factory floor, the equipment, and the skilled workers to build
a better way to keep a pizza hot.

Though some of CarryHot’s products are manufactured in
China, many of them are made by his twenty-five employees
working right on the edge of Midtown Manhattan. “Each one
of them is a superstar and does what three normal people would
do,” Plotkin says. “These people are highly, highly productive.”

Bronx-born, Plotkin came to school at UVM largely
because of the recommendation of an uncle, a WWII vet
and Vermont grad who earned his degree on the G.I. Bill.
Plotkin jokes that he “knew that there were other forms of
life” outside of New York City and wanted to experience
something different during his college years. Recalling his
arrival in early-sixties Burlington, Vermont, he says, “Mars.
It was like landing on Mars… and it was wonderful.”

But New York is in Plotkin’s soul—“there’s really nothing
about New York that I don’t love,” he says—and he would
return there after graduation, working for more than a decade in
the corporate world at Pfizer before joining the family business.

Retirement? “Sure. When my keys fall out of my pocket, and
they carry me out. That will be the end,” Plotkin says.

“I’m having too much fun to retire. Retirement is not part
of the program.”

MANHATTAN MANUFACTURER

SANDY PLOTKIN ’65

NYC Mayor’s Office

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"C"}

"C"
Despite the odds, Northeast Kingdom found quick success in Brooklyn with a contemporary American menu emphasizing “the seasonality of the northeast.” A lot has changed since the early days when Smeraldo was in the kitchen and Lipke ran the front of the house. They now have a chef and a manager and keep things running with trips to the city. Smeraldo’s focus remains on the restaurant, Lipke on her art, and both juggle life with their three young children.

Things have also changed for Bushwick, now a more likely refuge where you’re not expecting to find it,” Smeraldo says. “It’s also, you know, not a bad place to do business. In that extent, “It was just what I knew. ”

Listing those pleasures of New York City Life, Lilien counts “that has always been what I wanted to do without really knowing what I wanted to do.” For a pair of native Vermonters (Megan is the daughter of longtime art history prof Bill Lipke), the origins of the Northeast Kingdom name seem plain. “There is that, Smeraldo says, both of them love that remote, ragged corner of the state. But there’s also a deeply buried double entendre—Bushwick is in the northeast corner of King County. But most importantly is what Northeast Kingdom suggests of the vibe they hoped to create in their restaurant and a friendly place for artists. Megan’s studio is just two blocks from the restaurant, Lipke on her art, and both are very close,” Lipke says. “Because the artists come and get their burger at the restaurant and their studio is just down the street, shake my head, and I’m thinking, ‘Oh, my god. This city.’” He rattles off the frustrations—noise, dirt, traffic—and, let’s say, many New Yorkers’ forthright nature.

“Are things that have always been things that have always been there. But it’s just a special place and that’s why we stay, because the positives are so big.”

It’s also, you know, not a bad place to do business. In that regard, Lilien has built an impressive success story since graduating from UVM with his degree in economics in 1984. In his mid-twenties, Lilien says he and some of his contemporaries were quickly growing impatient with their career trajectory. “We felt that the only reason we didn’t have the jobs we wanted was because we were twenty-seven instead of thirty-seven. And none of us had the patience to wait ten years.”

Joining with friends (including fellow UVM alumni John Lord and Scott Chace), Lilien launched TIR Securities, a global institutional broker. They would grow to execute trades in fifty-five global markets, join sixteen global exchanges, and set up businesses in multiple countries. A global citizen by that point, Lilien went where his enterprises needed him most.

Plans to build their U.S. market would bring Lilien back to New York in 1996, and another transition followed not long after when E-Trade bought TIR Securities in 1999. Across the next decade, Lilien would hold CEO and COO roles at E-Trade before leaving in 2008. He now leads his own financial services venture, Bendigo Partners.

Lilien’s days are split between work and family and finding time to workout, sometimes with a trip to the boxing gym. Volunteer leadership on arts boards, such as WFUV Radio and the Baryshnikov Arts Center, is also another focus these days.

Listing those pleasures of New York City Life, Lilien counts access to the best in the arts, particularly music. As president of the Jazz Foundation of America, he champions support for aging musicians in difficult financial circumstances. Lilien led efforts to create a concert at Harlem’s Apollo Theater featuring musicians aided by the foundation, a fundraising effort that has greatly increased the organization’s capacity.

“Jazz musicians live the life of an entrepreneur, making their own way without a whole lot of help and security,” Lilien says. “We’re doing all we can to provide that safety net.”
Father and daughter, Bernard Palmer ’75 and Sydney Palmer ’14, came to know very different cities during their undergraduate years in Burlington. Sydney knew the Burlington that is the darling of media best lists for everything from tech innovation to the arts to craft brews to outdoor recreation. Bernard knew a sleepier place. For a guy who grew up in Harlem, calling it a “city” then would have been a stretch. “Those were the days when you could still drive up Church Street,” Palmer says with a laugh.

Recruited to play basketball for the Catamounts, Palmer recalls his desire to experience a different environment made him choose Vermont for his college education. While Burlington may have been a little somnolent, he found a solid education in business and made friendships among his basketball teammates that endure to this day. Beyond endorsing his alma mater for his younger daughter’s college years, Palmer has long been a stalwart UVM Alumni Association volunteer and advocate for the university.

“I just like helping out and seeing the school thrive. UVM is a gem in the rough. I just try to point people in the right direction because it did a lot for me,” Palmer says.

Aside from his UVM experience and time earning his MBA at the University of Cincinnati, this son of the city has spent his whole life in New York, New York. For the past ten years, Palmer has served as a top human resources administrator in the New York Public Schools. His job involves HR oversight of thirty-two high schools scattered through every borough but Staten Island.

A lot crosses Palmer’s desk—hiring of teachers, administrative and support staff; labor relations; and lawsuits, among other matters. Seldom a dull moment or predictable day, he says. “When I was hired, the guy who hired me said this is not a nine to five job. You still have to deal with people, work with people, and do the best you can.”

Bernard Palmer ’75
NYC Public Schools Leader

Emma Grady ’08
Fashion, Ethical Style Media

I was the scariest thing I’ve ever done. And, to be honest, I don’t know if I should even do that again—to move to New York with nothing but a few bags of clothes,” Emma Grady says, recalling the leap to live her dream.

Grady’s professional focus as a fashion writer and ethical style expert didn’t lack for audacity either. Straight out of UVM, she built her credentials writing on eco-focused topics through an internship in Newport, Rhode Island, with the editor-in-chief of treehugger.com and Planet Green.

Grady’s interest in fashion traces back to childhood watching old Hollywood movies with her father. She was deeply drawn to the classic styles. Her passions connected when Grady convinced her editor to assign her coverage of New York’s Fashion Week from an eco-conscious angle.

Not long after, Grady made that leap to New York, living the freelance writing life with all of its rewards and challenges. “I interviewed everyone from RFK, Jr. to the actor Adrian Grenier,” she says. “That’s one of the great things about New York—there are so many events going on and opportunities to meet people. I hit the ground running.”

Emmagrady.com gives a sense of the diversity of the young alumna’s endeavors. She co-founded the Ethical Writers Coalition, edits Past Fashion Future, an internationally acclaimed website she founded, and has juggled it all with jobs to help pay the rent. On that front, Grady just took a big step by landing work as a contributing video associate at Vanity Fair magazine.

“Ethical fashion expert” begs some definition, and Grady obliges. She considers everything from human rights issues for garment workers to the eco-friendliness of cotton production to businesses that build socially conscious practices into their brand identity.

Grady notes that beautiful design and style are always critical—classic and timeless are her watchwords. Given that, it’s not surprising that Grady is a big fan of vintage clothing, enjoying the thrill of the hunt, the individuality, and an ethic found in well-crafted clothes worthy of being mended rather than tossed.

A native of Maine, Grady says her years in New York have been a learning experience—with work, with apartments, with negotiating a subway system for the first time in her life. “All of it was completely foreign to me,” she says. “But there was no place else I could imagine myself right after college. I had to be in New York.”
looking back on his nearly twenty-year career as a prosecutor and attorney in public interest roles, David Szuchman considers his most challenging work. It doesn’t take him long to describe a 2004 case while he was working with the Department of Justice focused on child exploitation and obscenity crimes. The United States v. Mariscal involved the prosecution of a man who created and sold videos of child sexual abuse. HIV-positive, Angel Rafael Mariscal traveled to countries such as Ecuador and Cuba where he found children to exploit, participating in and filming the sexual acts himself.

On a case like that, you leave for work every day feeling like you’re wearing a white hat,” Szuchman says. Negotiating hurdles such as securing cooperation from the Cuban government, Szuchman and his colleagues earned a guilty verdict and a sentence of approximately one hundred years.

“Here’s the data. ‘I knew graduating from law school that would be an amazing experience and opportunity to do good,’ he says. Szuchman’s career has also included directing the State of New Jersey’s Division of Consumer Affairs and leadership roles in the district attorney’s office on cybercrime and identity theft.

New York has always been in Szuchman’s blood. He grew up just outside the city, and he and his family live in nearby Westchester County now. He commutes to work in the complex of buildings around City Hall in Lower Manhattan.

Reflecting on his taste for city life, Szuchman recalls his day of re-entry to Manhattan after three years working in the relative calm of Washington, DC. “In Grand Central during the morning rush, I had to stand on the edges of the main space. There was just so much going on, so many people walking in so many different directions. I had a moment of being overwhelmed,” he says. “Then the instincts of being a New Yorker kick in and you just plunge into the crowd and you go forward. That’s all I know.”

Straight out of Hofstra Law School, Szuchman landed his dream job with the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office. “I knew graduating from law school that would be an amazing experience and opportunity to do good,” he says. Szuchman’s career has also included directing the State of New Jersey’s Division of Consumer Affairs and leadership roles in the district attorney’s office on cybercrime and identity theft.

That first job was with the non-profit North Brooklyn Development Association. A summer internship on Wall Street had shown the economics major that a more traditional path in the financial world wasn’t a good fit for him.

He was also guided by an interest in economic injustice issues that he says was born during his years at UVM. “A lot of great professors opened my eyes to it in an exciting, but gentle way. It never felt heavy-handed or moralistic, it just sort of said, ‘Here’s the data.’

In Brooklyn’s Greenpoint neighborhood, Sweeny led a project that would help shift the data. “I became very interested in how do you retain competitive business in an urban setting, then very interested in how you promote the formation and early growth of small businesses,” Sweeny says. In Greenpoint, the answer was the renovation of five neglected industrial spaces, creating incubator space for as many as 130 fledgling businesses.

PDS Development continues to work in a similar vein, buying vacant industrial buildings in Brooklyn and Queens, renovating and leasing them.

“Our buildings are always a really interesting mish-mash of personalities. Diverse business owners making a diversity of things,” Sweeny says. “That can be a lot of fun because we can have somebody who is doing architectural metal working next door to somebody who is making really high-end artisanal gin next to somebody who is selling floor coverings. So they sort of represent that whole working part of the city economy.”
On April 8, Vanity Fair had just released their new cover story, featuring a portrait of Sofía Vergara—red dress off the shoulder, white fur wrap, looking, you know, like Sofía Vergara. Jane Sarkin, features editor for the magazine, breathes a sigh of relief during a noon-hour phone conversation. “It’s getting a lot of play because she looks amazing, and it was her first time on our cover,” Sarkin says. “There is a lot of excitement in the press and online. Sofía has a huge social media presence. That is going to be huge for her and for us.”

(More huge, two months later VF’s Caitlyn Jenner cover rippled around the globe.) Leading the process on the publication’s striking covers—“the face of the magazine”—has been a key focus for Sarkin in her work at Vanity Fair over the past thirty years.

Do the math. That adds up to some 360 rounds of working to find the right story, the right image, and coordinate everything that needs to be done to create a cover for one of the world’s most beautiful magazines. Sarkin credits a large crew of contributors—designers, hair and make-up artists, and, of course, legendary photographers such as Annie Leibovitz and the late Helmut Newton.

“I’ve been working with the same people, most of them, for more than twenty years,” she says. “We’re like a family here. It has really been an incredible time.”

Stormy weather, cancelled flights, finding out at the last-minute that the gigantic, set-designer-created planet Earth to be featured in a photo with Madonna needs to be transported across the country for a Los Angeles photo shoot, such are a few of the challenges of shooting a Vanity Fair cover. Asked about any misfires, Sarkin laughs and says you tend to forget those. Then adds, “Maybe putting Shia LeBouf in a space suit wasn’t the best idea.”

**ON THE COVER**

**MIRACLE ON ICE**

An English major during her UVM days, Sarkin can trace her interest in the magazine business to a precise and unexpected event. February 22, 1980, the famed “Miracle on Ice” game—the United States Olympic hockey team’s upset victory over the Soviet Union—took place in Lake Placid, New York. Sarkin, a UVM student in Burlington then, recalls being drawn into the excitement and intrigued by how it was captured in the media. Paging through a copy of People, she thought “How do you do this? How do you get involved in this world?”

Sarkin’s first New York magazine job would be an entry-level receptionist gig at Andy Warhol’s Interview magazine. “In those days, all you did was answer the phone all day.— Interview, Interview, Interview, Interview,” she recalls. She adds an important aside, “and you got to know all of New York.” A photo editor taught her about setting up photo shoots, and Sarkin grew into a magazine jack-of-all-trades. With her skills and her connections within New York’s celebrity A List, Sarkin would be an important addition to editor Tina Brown’s team as she built the Vanity Fair staff in the mid-1980s.

**CHANGING TIMES**

Though her focus at Vanity Fair has remained steady for three decades, Sarkin has experienced some change in the last few years. She and husband Martin O’Connor, an attorney, have an empty nest at their home in New Jersey, both daughters having gone off to college. “It’s awful. I miss my kids terribly,” she confesses. And Vanity Fair’s publisher, Condé Nast, recently moved the magazine headquarters from Times Square to One World Trade Center.

Then, of course, there are the challenges of keeping a print magazine vital in a rapidly changing media age. “We obviously have to adapt like everyone. We spend a lot of time on our web presence and thinking about how we attract new readers and young readers. But we really are going strong,” Sarkin says. “You just want to keep the magazine really, really successful. You want it to always be part of the conversation when people talk about what they’ve read recently in a magazine.”
In Search of the Smart Grid

By Joshua Brown

The sun is trying to shine on Rutland, Vermont. It’s a gray morning in April, but a few beams cut the clouds as Nathan Adams ’96 and I turn off Route 4 and head up City Dump Road. We pass two trucks unloading garbage at a transfer station. Then we get out of the car and start walking through the mud toward the top of this now-closed landfill. Amidst piles of melting snow, 7,722 silicon solar panels cover ten acres like so many rows of purple tabletops tipped toward the south.

I’ve come here looking for the smart grid revolution. Whatever that is.

The solar panels were erected on this hill by Vermont’s largest electricity company, Green Mountain Power, where Adams works as vice-president of strategy and innovation. When they’re turned on this summer, the panels will generate 2.5 megawatt hours of electricity, enough to power about 2,000 homes during full sun.

Next to the panels, eight metal storage buildings hold racks of both lead-acid and lithium-ion batteries. The batteries will store four megawatts of energy. The hill slopes gently down to the Rutland High School. In the event of a blackout—say the next Hurricane Sandy—the high school can be “islanded,” Adams tells me, separated from the regional electrical grid. With only solar power and batteries, GMP will be able to keep the lights and heat on at the school “as long as they’re needed,” Adams says.

The U.S. Department of Energy has identified this $10 million project, the Stafford Hill Solar Farm, as the first and only all-solar “microgrid” in the United States—and it goes far beyond providing power to an emergency shelter. In two hundred participating houses in the surrounding neighborhood, the hot-water tanks will soon have sensors that can wirelessly transmit their temperature back to Green Mountain Power. “Our customers will always have hot water,” Adams says, but new, sophisticated algorithms in GMP’s control center will be able to automatically shut down already-hot tanks for short periods, reducing demand when this East Rutland circuit nears peak load.

Ditto for the batteries—but in the other direction: as demand spikes, say on a hot summer afternoon when people flip on air conditioners, GMP will be able to quickly turn on the batteries, pumping power into the grid from Stafford Hill instead of having to buy it from expensive “peaker” plants in the New England wholesale electricity market. It’s solar power being collected all day,
then “dispatched” as Adams says, when it’s most needed. “We’re developing very local energy generation and storage to optimize the efficiency of the grid,” Adams says. Sounds pretty smart, maybe even revolutionary.

Thomas Edison received a patent for the incandescent light bulb in 1880 and by the end of that decade the first electric grids were providing a one-direction flow of electricity from generators to transmission lines to transformers to light bulbs. Over the next century, the U.S. grid spread in size and complexity such that, in more than a third of U.S. greenhouse gases come from the production of electricity.

Marshall leads a group of twenty-one UVM faculty who participate in the University of Vermont’s Smart Grid IGERT program. Funded by the National Science Foundation, and in partnership with Sandia National Laboratories, the five-year, $3 million program will train nearly two dozen doctoral students in an interdisciplinary cross-section of fields from engineering to psychology—all with an eye toward making the grid, well, smarter. “My definition of smart grid is the use of information technology to make the grid work better. And by working better I mean it’s more reliable, greener, and more cost-efficient,” says UVM professor of engineering Paul Hines, an expert on power systems. Roughly speaking, in the smart grid, electricity meets the internet, and power and information flow in two directions.

But underneath that tidy definition, Hines is quick to say, lies a set of hugely complex technological and cultural challenges—and a brewing set of fights about whose vision of a smarter grid will get funded. For example, to improve reliability, is it smarter to invest in hardening the grid against storm damage—Hines and colleagues ask in a recent opinion article in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences—or is it wiser to build “distributed generation” that spreads power production out to, say, hundreds of wind farms and thousands of solar rooftops?

2000, the National Academy of Engineering named the electric power grid the greatest engineering accomplishment of the twentieth century. But the twentieth century is getting to be a while ago—and the grid is showing its age. “A lot of the technology being used today in the electric grid would not have looked unusual to Edison,” says UVM engineering professor Jeff Marshall, “It’s really old stuff.”

A patchwork product, the grid is increasingly congested as more and more of our economy and culture requires plugging in. Large-scale power failures—like the Northeast blackout of 2003 and the one in India in 2012 that left ten percent of humanity in the dark—are hardening the grid against storm damage—Hines and colleagues ask in a recent opinion article in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences—or is it wiser to build “distributed generation” that spreads power production out to, say, hundreds of wind farms and thousands of solar rooftops?

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“Smart grid has become a catch-all phrase to represent the potential benefits of a revamped and more sophisticated electricity system,” writes Hines’ colleague, Jennie Stephens, in Smart Grid (R)Evolution: Electric Power Struggles, a new book that she co-authored. It’s “a vague, politically attractive, seemingly benign, and somewhat ambiguous phrase,” she writes. “After all, who would argue for a ‘dumb grid’?”

“I don’t even say smart grid anymore,” Nathan Adams tells me. “It’s one of those ubiquitous terms everyone is using and nobody knows what it means.” But he and everyone I talked to in my hunt for the smart grid agree that big changes are coming to how we produce, move, and manage electricity.

“We inevitably have to shift from fossil fuels to renewables,” says Jennie Stephens, who has faculty appointments in both the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources and the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences, “the question is how fast? And how is it going happen?”

Last year, four percent of the U.S. electricity supply came from wind, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration—and just 0.4 percent from solar. One of the central challenges in moving those percentages up is how to overcome what engineers call “the intermittency problem.” Wind is wonderful, until it stops blowing. Solar is swell, until a cloud passes over. “This causes the energy supply to go from full power to zero very quickly,” Jeff Marshall explains. “There is no storage in a traditional power grid. At any instant, the supply has to be equal to demand.” So, until recently, most utilities have seen these fluctuating power sources as no more than a boutique part of their supply.

To help, Marshall, Hines, and several of their students in the UVM smart grid program are designing better control algorithms for managing wind farms that optimize their power—using on-site battery storage to smooth output. And energy storage may become the most revolutionary part of a smart grid revolution, says Mads Almassalkhi, a new professor in the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences who specializes
charging. At the same time, Christopher Clement, a doctoral student in natural resources and trainee in UVM’s Smart Grid IGERT, is modeling what could happen to Vermont’s landscape if we shift most of our electrical demand to distributed solar and wind. “It’s a major impact on tens of thousands of acres,” Clement says, “that may have real conflict with current land uses, including dairy and forestry.”

Various versions of this solar-meets-battery scenario have some electricity companies running scared. Today, grid-scale batteries are “tremendously expensive,” Jeff Marshall says, but that’s changing fast. Rising electricity prices and declining costs for both solar panels and batteries mean that grid-connected solar-plus-battery energy systems will be “economic within the next ten to fifteen years,” the Rocky Mountain Institute forecasts, “and could soon supply a majority of customers’ needs.” To prevent large-scale “grid defection,” where home-owners and businesses decide that their smartest grid is no grid at all, may call for new rate structures and regulations—and may require utilities to reinsure their business as something other than selling kilowatts pumped in from far-away power stations.

It used to be that once a month a meter reader would come walking by. “Now, in Burlington, smart meters collect how many kilowatt-hours are being consumed every fifteen minutes, and automatically transmit this information back to the Burlington Electric Department every eight hours,” he explains. One cohort of volunteers in the study will be offered an incentive—their monthly bill paid off—if they’re able reduce their consumption the most in that group. Does clear information, or competition, or a financial incentive to take on traditional efficiency investments like insulation or new appliances—to help utilities to more quickly respond to power outages.

But one of the central promises of this massive investment of government resources in smart meters was that it would allow homeowners to see how much electricity they’re consuming, giving them a tool to conserve energy and save money. So far, that hasn’t happened much.

“I’ve come to UVM’s Gund Institute for Ecological Economics to continue my search for the smart grid. It’s a fine, sunny day in May, but Dan Fredman ’03 picked up his smart phone and texts his wife back at their apartment—asks her to turn on all the lights and crank the air-conditioning. Next to him on the table is a device that looks like a digital picture frame. It’s an “in-home display” and it may be the way the smart grid, someday, gets into your home. Before his wife turned on all the lights, the screen showed that he was spending three cents an hour on electricity. Now it’s showing thirty-three cents, a tenfold increase. “If we kept this going 24/7 that’s like $300 a month,” Fredman says—and tests his wife again asking her to turn it all off again.

“The fundamental point of this study is to see what happens to people’s behavior when they get real-time information about their energy use and costs,” he explains. One cohort of volunteers in the study will be offered an incentive—their monthly bill paid off—if they’re able reduce their consumption the most in that group. Does clear information, or competition, or a combination of both, compel renters—who don’t have a financial incentive to take on traditional efficiency investments like insulation or new appliances—to reduce their energy use?

For many people, smart grid—if it means anything at all—means a smart meter. In the wake of the economic crisis, $4.5 billion in federal stimulus money was directed in 2009 toward building the U.S. smart grid. In Vermont, $69 million came in, matched by an equal investment of government resources in smart meters was that it would allow homeowners to see how much electricity they’re consuming, giving them a tool to conserve energy and save money. So far, that hasn’t happened much.

There are many reasons why the smart meter promise hasn’t yet been met. One is that, to most people, the readout on a smart meter is gobbledygook: who balances their checkbook in kilowatt-hours? That’s where an in-home display can help: it collects information from the smart meter in real-time and translates it into dollars and cents. As part of their doctoral research in the UVM smart grid effort, Dan Fredman and Elizabeth Palchak are working with Burlington Electric to deploy two hundred in-home displays to volunteers in rental apartments around town.

Fredman points to his phone, which is receiving a signal from an in-home display back at his apartment. Before his wife turned on all the lights, the screen showed that he was spending three cents an hour on electricity. Now it’s showing thirty-three cents, a tenfold increase. “If we kept this going 24/7 that’s like $300 a month,” Fredman says—and tests his wife again asking her to turn it all off again.

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Fredman, like many other scientists studying the social nature of our energy systems, wants to know “what moves people and what behavioral strategies work best to help them to conserve?” Digging under the layers of new technology, there’s a growing body of evidence that the grid will only be as smart as we are.
One word: Internships
New donor support expands opportunities
by Kathleen Laramee ’00

The all-important internship is key to a rich undergraduate education and landing a great job after graduation. No surprise there. Recent surveys show that a full 70 percent of new hires fresh out of college will have an internship or co-op experience on their résumés. President Tom Sullivan has led a campus-wide effort to enhance career programs and building internship opportunities is a central component.

But the economic realities of financing summer internships, which are often unpaid, prevent many students from seeking them out. At UVM, a new trend of internship scholarships funded through private philanthropy is aiming to change that.

The Anna Whitcomb ’73 Scholarship, awarded to undergraduates pursuing internships that promote the common good with mission-based/non-profit organizations, is helping support Greta Hasler ’16 during an internship that she hopes will help her transition from a geography major to a policy-focused career.

Classical languages and history have been focuses of his own study and teaching, but Wheeling’s most consuming passion is for horse-drawn vehicles—the buggies, surreys, and sleighs that were commonplace conveyances in bygone Vermont and beyond. In fact, the familiar hexagonal red sign that marks the entrance to his Monkton property reads, not “Stop” but “Whoa.”

Wheeling is one of the world’s foremost authorities on horse-drawn vehicles, having amassed a library and archives on the subject and travelled the world lecturing and adding to his passion for them. And his Monkton barn is packed with vintage examples of the horse-drawn carriages that were once as common as cars on the Vermont byways.

For some forty years, Wheeling has made his home in Monkton, where he has served as an undertaker and local historian. Upon his death, Wheeling’s estate is estimated at $1 million, will give first preference to a student of the College of Medicine. If no such candidate exists from Monkton, it will be awarded to an undergraduate student from any of UVM’s schools or colleges.

The generous gift was made in honor of his late parents, Kenneth John Wheeling and Loretta Marie Wheeling. “I owe them. I owe them big time,” Wheeling says of his mother and his father—a doctor who practiced obstetrics and gynecology at Saint Francis Hospital in Port Jervis, New York. “They saw that I got educated, and my brothers and sisters. And who remembers?” he asks wistfully.

One word: Internships

To educate another kid
Ken Wheeling’s estate gift honors parents

Kenneth Wheeling, a retired teacher and former director of the Shelburne Museum, is a man of wide intellectual interests and a strong devotion to his community in Monkton, Vermont.

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“I hope some deserving students from Monkton will benefit,” Wheeling says. “My dad and mother would just be pleased that they could educate another kid. Maybe not just yet, he smiles knowingly, “but someday.”
Together, we can do great things.

Kaelyn Burbey is ready to go.

A sophomore in the Honors College from San Marcos, California, in her first two years at UVM she has been a stand-out student, double majoring in environmental engineering and mathematics and making the dean’s list every semester.

Last year she received the June Vernott Award, given to the female student who, at the end of her first year of study, shows the greatest promise of success in the engineering profession.

She is a cadet sergeant with the UVM Army ROTC “Green Mountain Battalion,” where she earned the Superior Cadet Award last year and was on the Ranger Challenge Team this year. After graduation? “I’m hoping I get commissioned in the Corps of Engineers,” she says. “It really sets you up well for a professional career. Once you get out of there, you’re ready to go.”

Kaelyn is also a recipient of the Rockwell Endowed Scholarship for students studying in the Honors College.

And that’s a great thing. Scholarship support for deserving students continues to be a top priority for UVM and the UVM Foundation.
Are you up to something? I hate blank columns.

William Bloomer ’73
the son of Aldermen in Rutland, continuing recently elected to the Board of
grandson of time spent in the West Indies. The She was an active member of the stationed at Gowen Air Field. They away in Montpelier, Vermont. When Hester was 95, when she passed, prior to her death in March. Hes-
written to thank Gwen found in the alumni photo gallery. imperfection in line with that of the
ness is the Coventry Coach Factory imperfect in line with that of the
imperfect in line with that of the

Patty Pike Hallock gave a talk at the Congregational Church in Rutland on her talk at the Congregational Church in Rutland on her

Mary Board-07, South Carolina. Mary was born office, Harvard Professor, Mass. Gen-
re-climbing. Still active in medical of the demolition of the ‘Shoe Box’

Penelope Easton ’44

Shirley and her husband have lived of a holiday palm tree with wrapped

Charles Wiley writes, “This, 2015, as a part of a community that dances, debates, paints, writes
part of a community that dances, debates, paints, writes

The campus is still beautiful. Two of

Clara and Dick Fink sent a very creative Christmas card from Florida an orange tree with wrapped
gifts and taken the round door knobs outside our door. Someone had set off beer and whiskey bottles as ten
taxi cabs and taken the door knobs off the doors so as to use as bowling Caution—wear shoes or slipper in the halls. Then the announcement of the death of a alumnus. Quite a year!”

Send your news to— Penelope Easton ’44 on her work presenting nutrition in Alaska in 1948. Read more about Easton’s experience then and her experience now telling her story as a first-

are you up to something? I hate blank columns.

Penelope Easton ’44 on her work presenting nutrition in Alaska in 1948. Read more about Easton’s experience then and her experience now telling her story as a first-

Imagine dining each night with your neighbors who are writers, musicians, professors, activists, and artists. These are just some of the people who live at Wake Robin. Be part of a community that dances, debates, paints, writes and publishes, makes music, works with computers, and works with wood. Life the you choose—in a vibrant community of interesting people. We’re happy to tell you more. Visit our website or give us a call today to schedule a tour.

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Alicia 208 MAINE ROBIN DRIVE, SHELBURNE, VERMONT

Creative Community

read more at uvm.edu/vq
“Living well. Winters in Florida, summers in Vermont. 6 months in our condo in the Florida Keys, 6 months in our home in Vermont. I spend 6-7 months in our condo in Florida, 4 months in New York, 1 month in Vermont. The rest of the time I live outdoors of Syracuse. I frequently travel to visit our children and grandchildren who are scattered from Alaska to Switzerland.”

Send your news to—

Jane Morrison Battles
Apt. 125A
210 East Lancaster Avenue
Wayne, PA 19087
janeatlatl@yahoo.com

A nervous Shetland pony, a mean mermaid, a chicken who only laid one egg, then a few days later another, then another and another. Then the hen got sick and could not lay any eggs. Then the pigs were infested with lice. Then the roosters turned white. Then Marsha Pearl Jamil wrote, “Just returned from Dewees Island off Charleston, South Carolina, with Susan celebrating her 50th birthday. We shared a big snowpack and cold temperatures in the country. I still am doing research and working on another book.”

If you are interested in planning your upcoming reunion, email alumni@uvm.edu. If you have any questions or comments, please contact the Alumni Office at 802-863-7897 or pillsburyseniorcommunities.com.
50TH REUNION OCTOBER 24-26, 2015

Connecticut College in New London is pleased to announce that Anne Seeman Shorey ‘67 has been chosen for the second year in a row to serve as chair of the Committee for excellence of the College’s reunion. This marks the 100th year of an annual tradition of excellence that started in 1915. The committee is made up of staff and volunteers who work behind the scenes to make the reunion a success. This year’s reunion will be held on the campus of Connecticut College in New London on October 24th and 25th. As always, there will be a variety of activities offered for alumni and their families. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please contact Anne Seeman Shorey at shorey.anne@gmail.com or by phone at 860-214-2860. Dates and times will be announced soon.

Mary Sue Coleman’s inauguration as president of the University of Michigan is scheduled for October 24th. Coleman, who served as provost at the University of Texas at Austin before coming to Michigan, will be the first woman to lead the university in its 129-year history. She will speak at an event at the university’s Power Center at 4:30 p.m. on October 23rd.

The University of Vermont (UVM) is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year with a series of events throughout the year. The university was founded in 1835 as the first state-supported university in New England. Since then, UVM has grown to become one of the largest universities in the Northeast, with more than 15,000 students enrolled. The university offers a wide range of undergraduate and graduate programs in fields such as business, education, health sciences, and the arts. UVM is committed to preparing students for successful careers and lives of purpose.

The UVM Alumni Association is hosting a Green & Gold Affinity Group meeting on October 24th at 5:30 pm at the Alumni Center at UVM. The group is welcoming all alumni and friends of the university to attend. The meeting will feature updates on campus events and initiatives, as well as a Q&A session with UVM President Suresh Garimella. The meeting is free and open to the public.

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It’s April as I write this and I’m sitting in my home office (The Lawyers Group) where I can see Clara and S. Manjaro this coming August!”

Emily Schnaper Manders
104 Walnut Street
Toledo, OH 43615
dumasger@yahoo.com

Send your news to—
Debra Maria Vesci writes, “It is hard to believe that I have been at the University of Vermont for 45 years! While I was away, the Alumni Associa- tion created the Advisory Board. She writes, “The University Moritz College of Law was founded in 1652 and is dedicated to protecting the environment and the rule of law. It is an amazing thing. She will have the perfect get-up to create artwork when she travels back from the State University Moritz College of Law. She has been a UVM alumna for over 20 years and is a member of the Class of 1976. She currently serves as an academic adminis- trator for the university’s School of Law. She previously served as a professor of law at the University of Minnesota, where she was a faculty member for over 20 years. She is also an active member of the American Bar Association (ABA), where she has served on the National Council on Law and Society. She received her Ph.D. in cognitive science from the University of California, San Diego in 2004. She is currently a professor of law at the University of Minnesota, where she teaches courses in legal reasoning and legal writing. She is also a member of the American Law Institute. She has received numerous awards for her research, including the American Bar Association’s Distinguished Service Award.”

THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

SUMMER 2015

CLASSNOTES

50

45TH REUNION (OCtober 2–4, 2015)

alumni.uvm.edu/reunion

I am interested in planning your upcoming reunion, email alumi@uvm.edu. I know it is hard to believe, the largest reunion in Vermont history! The reunion will be held on the campus of the University of Vermont in Burlington. The event will feature an array of activities, including a keynote address by a prominent speaker, a reunion dinner, and a special class reunion celebration. All UVM alumni and friends are invited to attend. For more information, please visit alumni.uvm.edu/reunion.
A member of the 40th Reunion Alumni Committee last fall, Gerry produced and directed the opening show of the college’s annual reunion weekend trip to New York City that I met up with my sister, Donna O’Hearn ’92 and her family. This year is the 10th anniversary of my cancer free diagnosis. That meant I could claim to have lived through the Egyp- tian revolution (2011) and military overthrow of Morsi (2013). For myself, my husband, Ted Child ’74, and our new grandson, we are looking forward to spending more time at our camp on Trout Lake and will remain in the North Country for the foreseeable future. The 10th anniversary of celebrating my cancer free victory later that year I helped to continue the operations of the fam- ily run Forever Green Farm in West Stockbridge, MA. He is a farmer at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art in the Berkshires. His professional career allowed spe- cial opportunities including serving as president of the Vermont Bar Association, a statewide group of lawyers, and his oldest daughter is a lawyer. He has represented the planning and teaching staff of the UVM Extension Systems Annual Income Tax Course. He helped to organize the impact and has on us all. Janet and Kevin have just had their fourth child, so it’s been a bit of a whirlwind for everyone who fit the description of prince of a guy it was Bronto; great teammate at UVM who spoke glow- ingly of his past experiences meeting new people and having a great time! Never a dull moment!”

Patricia Boera writes, “Just back from a delightful Eas- ter weekend trip to New York City where I met up with my sister, Donna O’Hearn ’92 and her family. This year is the 10th anniversary of my cancer free diagnosis. That meant I could claim to have lived through the Egyptian revolution (2011) and military overthrow of Morsi (2013). For myself, my husband, Ted Child ’74, and our new grandson, we are looking forward to spending more time at our camp on Trout Lake and will remain in the North Country for the foreseeable future. The 10th anniversary of celebrating my cancer free victory later that year I helped to continue the operations of the family run Forever Green Farm in West Stockbridge, MA. He is a farmer at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art in the Berkshires. His professional career allowed special opportunities including serving as president of the Vermont Bar Association, a statewide group of lawyers, and his oldest daughter is a lawyer. He has represented the planning and teaching staff of the UVM Extension Systems Annual Income Tax Course. He helped to organize the impact and has on us all. Janet and Kevin have just had their fourth child, so it’s been a bit of a whirlwind for everyone who fit the description of prince of a guy it was Bronto; great teammate at UVM who spoke glowingly of his past experiences meeting new people and having a great time! Never a dull moment!”

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John Bartlett says, “I am enjoying my chosen field! I recently changed jobs and am still enjoying my chosen field.”

Kathleen (Kathy) Perry Hall classmates!”

Anne is alive and well as head baseball coach at Yale, and her fiancee, Osama Alshaykh, moved to Newton, Massachusetts, and her family in the Burlington, Vermont, area. Our daughters narrowing down her college choices as a high school junior—where did the years go? With so much of our time spent on college in recent years it still brings back great memories at the time at UVM. I hope my daughters think back on their college years as fondly as I do. Thornton Tomasetti, the international engineering firm, announces that Gunnar Hubbard, a principal and the firm’s sustainability practice leader, has been elected a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). He will be honored during the Investiture of Fellow Ceremony at the AIA 2015 Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada. In May, Hubbard has more than 30 years of experience as an architect, consultant, educator and advocate for projects through-out the United States, Asia, Europe and the Middle East. He has played a key sustainability role on a wide variety of projects including CityCen- ter Las Vegas, an $8.4 billion mixed use complex; the green certification for 12 million square-feet of existing real estate in Sweden, and a net zero school.
89 William Hunt, was recently appointed as the prescribing psychologi- cist license (conditional) in New Mexico. A first for a University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Dr. Hunt is the only African American prescriptive psychologist in the U.S. Rob Miller and his wife Kevia Miller recently moved back to Vermont with their two daughters, Ella and Olivia. Rob is the co-founder and President of Vermont State Employees Credit Union and Board member of the Schools of Life, Inc. in Rutland, Vermont. Marleen (Mary) Sand- ers writes, “I am now associate pro- fessor of reference and instruction and research at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. After joining the faculty, I spent several years helping students find meaningful work in an international setting. For me, that is a fabulous change at the same time!” Julie Homma ’98 and Topper Homma are still in Alaska after 25 years! They write, “We get back east occasionally and see many U-M men like Dave and Holly Com- mings, Will and Maree Friend, Dave and Sue Adams, and Aly and Pat Stopps. Go Card Go! Distra Tozer-Hayes and wife Fiona Tozer-Hayes are pleased to announce the arrival of their twin girls on February 13, 2015. Caleb Ann-Marie weighed 7 lbs., 2 oz. and Eliza weighted 6 lbs., 14 oz. The girls were born in Sunderland General Hospi- tal, England, where Dr. Deirdre works for the NHS. She has joined the coaching team of the World Sailing youth team and is excited to continue her journey this summer!” Pamela “Bunny” Edlucze Luey writes, “Our daughter Cassie got married last July. Her husband was a UVM basketball team’s captain. Pamela and I love to hear from you and what you are doing!” Wendy Webster Farrell writes, “I am a beach vacation with my husband, Skip. We visited at all four major league training parks and saw 15 teams that play in the Grapefruit League. While attend- ing a Colorado Rockies spring train- ing game I saw a guy wearing a baseball cap who I knew. We turned and start chatting. Small world. It was Dave Clevenger ’76—no younger brother went to Rice High School with my husband. We had a reunion and promised to get together for a din- ner in the future as a result of this meeting!” David Charles Merrett retired on decem- ber 30, 2000. He writes, “Attended St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Mocksville, North Carolina. Got mar- ried last summer (July 22), in the fall in Petri. Enjoy living in a warm climate and love watching UVM online sports. Went to all the baseball, basketball, and football games. It was a great time.” Dale basketball game... oh, what a game! It was my first. It swung for a new in- crease after that. They won! Son Ryan, Tim Dan Krasnow, Tom Bell ’99, Mike Wolff 95, and others came to the mini-reunion hell ski in the Cana- dian Rockies on March 25. I have no idea what they were doing there! Yes, I am still running!”

90 Katie Cohen writes, “This May is my 12 year anniversary of serving as the community relations manager of the UNC-CH School of Nursing. During this time, I have worked with infor- mation on the old facility. Please congratulate her for her years of service. Congratulations!” Sarah Reynolds writes, “I’m excited to share that I was recently appointed captain of the Lawton Park Realtors softball team in Seattle for the 2015 season. Please send your news to— CBH Cohen Stigler jcgent@madrawner.com

91 Ben Stigler writes, “I am now located in Boston with my wife, Sarah, and promised to get together for din- ner the same night!”

92 Adam McCarthy-Christie says, “I am president of McMahon & McKenna Structural Engineers in Bos- ton. We also have offices in Miami and New York City, and our clients are all over the country! I have been lucky enough to assist in the design of a lot of fun bringing the structu- res for several exciting building projects. These include building I recently celebrated my 20th wed- ding anniversary with my wife, Charolette, our son, Travis, and our three fantastic chil- dren, Philip (14), Anthony (12) and Madisyn (8). We are enjoying our time at the beach and hope I see you all soon!” Bob Piper, “After 25 years in the construction business, my wife, Susan, and I left to start a help launch a startup company in the healthcare space. My name is Bob Piper, and I am excited to see how my skills and experience will contribute to the success of the company.”

93 Jackie Levin writes, “Greetings from the Pacific North- west!”

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95 20TH REUNION OCTOBER 2–4, 2015 

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96 15TH REUNION OCTOBER 2–4, 2015 

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97 20TH REUNION OCTOBER 2–4, 2015 

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I am excited to share the news that I have received a new job offer from Bose Corporation in Boston, Massachusetts. This exciting opportunity is in the area of engineering and research, and aligns perfectly with my background.

I am excited to join the Bose team and contribute to the company's innovative work on audio technology. I look forward to working with a talented group of professionals and contributing to the development of cutting-edge products.

I am continuing my career in Europe for work. I am continuing to live in New York City and travel through the rest of 2022. I am thrilled to be living in New York and am happy with my living situation and my work.

I am looking forward to the new challenges and opportunities that this new job will bring. I am excited to learn more about the Bose team and their work and to contribute to their success.

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are still pursuing careers in that field. Edgar has environmental education through the Peace Corps, Coo-
pe has salaried positions in North-
ern, New York and Ake coordinates a sustainability-focused learning-
gram at Lawrence University.
They are happy to still have so much in common despite the dis-
ance between them! Samantha Elledge shares, “After serving with AmeriCorps VISTA in Worcester, Mas-
achusetts, post-graduation, I made
Americorps VISTA in Worcester, Mas-
achusetts, January 24, 2015.
June Harmon Harris '45, of Dunedin, Florida, April 8, 2015.
William Henry Milne '43, of Dun-
hampshire, February 15, 2015.
Grace Meeken Hutchins '41, of Glen, New
Meilenbauer '42, of Vero Beach, Florida, January 21, 2015.
Robert L. Cohen '64, of Pomona, New York, October 23, 2015.
Lewis L. Jones '64, of GH, Florida, November 28, 2014.
William H. Jenning '65, of San Diego, California, January 26, 2015.
John Bernard McShane, Jr. '70, of Barre, Vermont, January 26, 2015.
Peter N. D. Watson '68, of Manchester, New Hampshire, February 1, 2015.
February 4, 2015.
March 6, 2015.
February 4, 2015.
March 31, 2015.
February 22, 2015.
February 20, 2015.
November 21, 2014.
Dakota, March 30, 2015.
March 16, 2015.
November 11, 2014.
February 11, 2015.
December 7, 2014.
April 11, 2015.
23, 2015.
2015.
March 2, 2015.
February 18, 2015.
January 10, 2015.
April 14, 2015.
February 19, 2015.
February 19, 2015.
February 25, 2015.
March 25, 2015.
March 18, 2015.
February 9, 2015.
October 29, 2013.
April 3, 2015.
Katherine Mickelson Macke r '47, of Burlington, Vermont, February 11, 2015.
Irene A. Vollbrecht '47, of Fremont, California, April 22, 2015.
Mary E. Baggs '48, of Keene, New Hampshire, March 15, 2015.
Catherine Martel Gibson-Daley '49, of Dennis, Massachusetts, December 22, 2014.
Benjamin F. Sheyver '50, of Shingle, Vermont, April 21, 2015.
Marvin Gallant '50, of Burlington, Vermont, May 2, 2015.
Donald E. Holdsworth MD '56, of Wells, Maine, April 30, 2015.
Karleen Chapman Knepperkoger '56, of Philomath, Virginia, February 9, 2015.
Richard Bradley Chapman '57, of West Rutland, Vermont, March 9, 2015.
Bruce R. MacKay MD '57, of West Rutland, Vermont, April 21, 2015.
Norma Shangraw Griffin '57, of Itasca, Minnesota, November 15, 2014.
Deane Barrier Bostch '57, of Frontier, North Carolina, January 26, 2015.
Myron Peter Pidlyski '57, of Amsterdam, New York, January 3, 2015.
Irene Fleischman Platt '58, of New York, December 12, 2014.
David Charles Bell '59, of East Rutland, Vermont, April 2, 2015.
J. Donald Capra '59, M.D. '63, of Ohio-Kh, Ohio, February 24, 2015.
Spencer G. Gregory '59, of Sudbury, Vermont, January 5, 2015.
Patsy Wadsworth Fisk '59, of Portland, Maine, April 7, 2015.
William L. Jenning '65, of San Diego, California, November 13, 2015.
Carl B. Martin, III '65 of Rutland, Massachusetts, January 3, 2015.
Judith A. Greeno '66, of Schenectady, New York, November 6, 2015.
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IN MEMORIAM

Alfred Hartson ’72, of Mount Desert, Maine, January 11, 2015.
Thomas Doran McGleen ’72, of Burlington, Vermont, January 22, 2015.
Sander E. Sundberg G’65/’72, of Ingleside, Illinois, April 15, 2015.
Bonnie Jensen Christiansen ’73, of Winton, North Carolina, January 12, 2015.
Teresa L. Dennis ’73, of Charlotte, North Carolina, August 19, 2014.
Paula Fries Taylor G’73, of South Burlington, Vermont, January 28, 2015.
Nancy Fitzgerald Fowler ’74, of Brooklin, Maine, February 1, 2015.
Mark Edward Byrne ’76, of Kansas City, Missouri, March 5, 2015.
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Heidi Lynn Bobeck ’77, of Hopkinton, Massachusetts, January 21, 2015.

VERMONT COMMUNITY

Dan Archdeacon, professor of mathematics and computer science, passed away on February 18. Professor Archdeacon, who joined the UVM faculty in 1982, served the university in many leadership roles, including as director of the Mathematics Graduate Program and as a longtime member and chair of the Professional Standards Committee of the Faculty Senate. He was named a University Scholar for the academic year 2003-2004, was a Fulbright Teaching Fellow at the Riggs’ Commerce School, and held numerous visiting professorships at universities throughout the world. A passionate and highly accomplished mathematician, Professor Archdeacon’s research focus was on graph theory, combinatorics, theoretical computer science, and topographical graph theory, for which he had particular interest.

Beal Baker Hyde, professor emeritus of botany, died on March 31. After holding academic positions at the University of Oklahoma and Caltech, Professor Hyde joined the UVM faculty in 1965. His long career included strong leadership in his department’s chair. Professor Hyde started the Cell Biology program. He served terms as president of the Faculty Senate and faculty ombudsman and also took his role as student advisor very seriously. Travel on sabbatical took him to England and Denmark for research and teaching at different points in his career. Professor Hyde was a World War II veteran of the Army Air Force who, following the attack on Pearl Harbor, interrupted his undergraduate study at Amherst College to enlist.

Robert Larson, professor emeritus of educational administration, passed away on September 3, 2014. After teaching high school social studies in Massachusetts, Professor Larson his doctorate at Boston University. He then joined the UVM faculty where he would enjoy a career of thirty-one years. The author of several books, Professor Larson’s publications included three editions of Changing Schools from the Inside Out. Many of his students throughout the years included school administrators across Vermont. After retiring to Cape Cod in 1999, Professor Larson continued his commitment to education, serving as clerk for the study committee that recommended the regionalization of the Harwich and Chatham school system.

Bill Nedde, longtime faculty member of educational and past head coach of the track and cross country teams, passed away on April 13. Coach Nedde taught at UVM from 1967 until his retirement in 1990. He also worked in the Cardiovascular Rehabilitation Program at the University Medical Center. Coach Nedde’s legacy includes the 1969 founding of the program, which he founded; associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; and secretary and vice-president of United Academics. Nedde was a passionate and highly accomplished researcher who studied the progress of mechanization and the development of capitalist economies. His most recent book, Structures of Change in the Mechanical Age, was highly praised and is much admired by his peers.

Alan Wertheimer, professor emeritus of political science, passed away on April 10. Wertheimer, a distinguished scholar in the area of political philosophy, was a thirty-seven-year veteran of the UVM faculty. In nine years as chair, he helped build the Political Science Department into a nationally recognized program. An internationally recognized scholar, he penned countless articles in top journals and wrote three seminal works: Coercion; Exploitation; and Consent to Sexual Relations. He was selected as a University Scholar in 1995-96, one of the highest honors in the university. Some of Professor Wertheimer’s most influential work came after his retirement in 2005, when he made major contributions to the field of bioethics through his work at the National Institutes of Health in collaboration with Harvard’s Ekedel Emanuel.

VACATION RENTALS & SALES

BURLINGTON, VT

23 bedroom/6 Unit Investment Property. Remember how hard it was to find housing in Burlington in 2020? 2016. 100% occupied till May 2021. 12. Professor Thomson joined the University of California, Los Angeles, in 1991 as chair of the Department of Economics. He served the university in numerous leadership roles including chair of the Economics Department; director of the Integrated Petroleum and Energy Program, which he founded; associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; and secretary and vice-president of United Academics. Thomson was a passionate and highly accomplished researcher who studied the progress of mechanization and the development of capitalist economies. His most recent book, Structures of Change in the Mechanical Age, was highly praised and is much admired by his peers.

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CLASSIFIEDS

PAGOSA SPRINGS, CO

Looking to buy or rent property in Southwest Colorado? Contact Mary Cocke ’90 at 970-946-2462 or email mcocke708@aol.com.

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SIESTA KEY, FL

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MARIA’S VINEYARD, MA

Let me help you find the perfect vacation property. No smoking/pets. $2,399,999.00 in Southwest Colorado? Contact Mary Cocke ’90 at 970-946-0215 or email mccocke708@aol.com.

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Alan Wertheimer, professor emeritus of political science, passed away on April 10. Wertheimer, a distinguished scholar in the area of political philosophy, was a thirty-seven-year veteran of the UVM faculty. In nine years as chair, he helped build the Political Science Department into a nationally recognized program. An internationally recognized scholar, he penned countless articles in top journals and wrote three seminal works: Coercion; Exploitation; and Consent to Sexual Relations. He was selected as a University Scholar in 1995-96, one of the highest honors in the university. Some of Professor Wertheimer’s most influential work came after his retirement in 2005, when he made major contributions to the field of bioethics through his work at the National Institutes of Health in collaboration with Harvard’s Ekedel Emanuel.
WAXING NOSTALGIC

VQ: How’s the tour going?
CW: Really well. We played in Los Angeles and San Francisco, and had a beautiful drive up California. On our day off we camped in the redwoods last night. It is the little things like that that make you realize you’re really lucky to be doing what you’re doing. There was a very winding, long dirt road out to a place called Gold Bluffs Beach, which we attacked with our twelve-passenger van.

VQ: What venues are you playing?
CW: It’s mixed, that’s sort of the name of the game. You get your anchor date, a nice theater or a festival, then you plan around that with the smaller clubs and things along the way. Just on this tour we played in a little Mexican restaurant, then a huge festival with 100,000 people the next day.

VQ: Tell me about some of your most memorable moments performing with Della Mae.
CW: We were lucky to work with a great producer, Jacquire King. Jacquire and the material were able to pull out our deepest musical influences from each one of us in the band. I grew up listening to blues, rock and roll, gospel music. And I was able to cut loose with my vocals a little bit and employ more of the blues flavor. Though this is our fourth album, it’s the first that is self-titled because we feel like we really do sort of come into our own with this record.

VQ: Are you in touch with Avi these days? How is he doing?
CW: He’s touring the world with Bombino and also doing a lot of work with an organization called Heartbeat, which brings Palestinian and Israeli kids together to play music. Avi has continued with a lot of the social causes that he was into when we were at UVM.

VQ: What excites you about your new album?
CW: We were lucky to work with a great producer, Jacquire King. Jacquire and the material were able to pull out our deepest musical influences from each one of us in the band. I grew up listening to blues, rock and roll, gospel music. And I was able to cut loose with my vocals a little bit and employ more of the blues flavor. Though this is our fourth album, it’s the first that is self-titled because we feel like we really do sort of come into our own with this record.

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