I. Introduction
The Transdisciplinary Research Initiative (TRI) was designed to help map the University’s existing and emerging capabilities; to identify those research, teaching, and public service areas that hold the strongest potential for distinction; and to use the findings to guide us in pursuit of our goal of becoming a recognized center for learning and discovery in selected fields.

TRI’s focus during academic year 2009-10 was on the identification of the first areas of focus: Complex Systems; Food Systems; and Neuroscience, Behavior and Health. During the 2010-11 academic year we began the process of building the administrative infrastructure necessary to support the Initiatives. Simultaneously, the faculty members associated with these three research areas established communication networks, identified opportunities for collaboration, and further identified particular areas of focus. Beginning with academic year 2011-12, the Steering Committees took full ownership of their charge by hosting innovative outreach events; bringing distinguished colleagues from around the world to campus; launching innovative curriculum ideas in both undergraduate and graduate education; and developing competitive grant submissions. They also developed distinctive “voices” in communications on their websites, twitter feeds, and research listservs and continued to actively engage the campus community in their scholarship.

II. Current Year Highlights
Complex Systems
Dr. James Bagrow has been appointed as the second Initiative-driven hire, supporting the efforts of the Complex Systems Initiative. Dr. Bagrow is an Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Statistics. His interests include complex networks, statistical physics, and optimization, all of which span multiple disciplines from computation to social science. The Complex Systems group also developed three “FlashMob Research” events over the last year, engaging UVM and visiting faculty and students in intense, multi-day sessions of focused problem-solving and held their first MacMillan Symposium in the UVM Davis Center in April 2014 to an audience of over 200 entitled, “Prediction: The Next Big Thing.”

Food Systems
The Food Systems Initiative (FSI) will soon benefit from the third Initiative-driven hire, which is currently under recruitment. Continuing under the leadership of the Dean of UVM Extension, Doug
Lantagne, the FSI found new ways to connect with state and community leaders, including bringing in additional Steering Committee members from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets, Fletcher Allen Health Care, and Green Mountain College. The FSI has also taken a leadership role in representing UVM to the newly established Vermont Higher Education Food Systems Consortium as well as advising student efforts to meet the goals of the national Real Food Challenge for a “healthy, fair, and green food system” on the UVM campus. With three national collaborators – Johns Hopkins University, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, and Iowa State University – FSI became a formal sponsor of a new journal specifically designed to elevate the scholarship of food systems research, the Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development (JAFSCD). In addition, a special edition of the journal (Winter 2015) has been identified to be dedicated to innovations in food systems scholarship showcased at the 2014 UVM Food Systems Summit this June, where national and international thought-leaders will travel to the UVM campus and join scholars as well as practitioners in two days of keynotes, panel discussions, and networking.

Neuroscience, Behavior and Health
The Neuroscience, Behavior and Health Initiative continued to bring together the existing strengths at UVM in neuroscience, psychology, rehabilitation sciences, education, and medicine to study human behavior as a major risk factor for disease and disability. In 2013, NBH was proud to provide $15,000 in grant writing support to Dr. Stephen Higgins, the Principal Investigator of two grants successfully awarded an unprecedented total of $34.7 million to UVM. These included an $11.5 million COBRE (Center of Biomedical Research Excellence) award to fund the Vermont Center on Behavior and Health (VCBH) and a $19.5 million TCORS (Tobacco Centers of Regulatory Science) grant to Dr. Higgins and VCBH specifically for tobacco research of interest to the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The first Initiative-driven hire for NBH in 2012, Dr. Dawei Li, continued to build a strong record in publication while also recruiting graduate and undergraduate students to his research team.

III. Leadership
Appendix A lists the Initiative Directors and all current Steering Committee members.

IV. Faculty Recruitment
Each spring, Deans are asked to submit a slate of faculty recruitments proposed for the following academic year. These proposed recruitments are evaluated in the context of the position’s overall purpose and role; area of expertise and role in teaching and research; the position’s fit in the unit’s strategic priorities; and any cross-disciplinary impact of the position. The Deans proposed a highly strategic slate of tenure-track recruitments for academic year 2013-14, of which 33 were authorized. The research foci of 14 of these positions were in direct alignment with one of the Initiatives. This maximized the use of existing resources and furthered efforts to build critical mass in these signature areas.

V. Annual Reports from TRI Leadership
In 2013-14, all three Initiatives actively advanced their charge to develop transdisciplinary excellence at UVM. A detailed list of the 2013-14 achievements submitted by each of the three Initiatives’ leadership is attached as Appendix B.
VI. Plans for Future Initiatives
There is a general consensus on campus that we should allow the three existing Initiatives to grow and develop before pursuing additional Initiatives. Nonetheless, there are two other critically important areas in which we are progressing: the humanities and the environment.

The Office of the Provost has partnered with the College of Arts and Sciences to expand and enhance the Humanities Center, and we share a commitment to engagement around the connective role of the humanities across disciplinary and collegiate boundaries. Professors David Jenemann and Luis Vivanco have been appointed co-directors of the re-envisioned Humanities Center.

Provost Rosowsky has recently announced plans for the Institute for Environment at UVM. The vision for a university-wide institute, the first of its kind at UVM, evolved out of the campus-wide conversation that led to the Envisioning Environment report last year. The plan to create an Institute for Environment was first announced in the Provost’s February ‘Across the Green’ memo. The Provost has created a university-wide task committee to develop (1) a mission statement for the institute, (2) a strategic vision for the institute (with goals, measures to assess progress, and metrics to assess impact), and (3) an operating plan (financial and governance) for the institute. These will be transmitted as a series of recommendations for the Provost’s consideration.
Appendix A

2013-14 TRI Steering Committee Membership

**Complex Systems**  
*Director* Peter Dodds, Department of Mathematics & Statistics  
*Assistant to Director* Andrea Elledge

**Steering Committee**
- Joshua Bongard, Department of Computer Science
- Jason Bates, Department of Medicine / School of Engineering
- Christopher Danforth, Department of Mathematics & Statistics
- Paul Hines, School of Engineering
- Christopher Koliba, Department of Community Development & Applied Economics
- David Novak, School of Business Administration
- Brian Tivnan, UVM Complex Systems Center Affiliate; MITRE Chief Engineer, Modeling & Simulation Department; Site Leader, MITRE-Burlington

**Food Systems**  
*Director* Doug Lantagne, Dean of UVM Extension  
*Assistant to Director* Alison Nihart

**Steering Committee**
- Cynthia Belliveau, Continuing and Distance Education
- Linda Berlin, Center for Sustainable Agriculture
- Melody Brown Burkins, Research and Strategic Initiatives
- Rocki-Lee DeWitt, School of Business Administration
- Naomi Fukagawa, Department of Medicine - Gerontology Geriatrics
- Gillian Galford, Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources
- Eric Garza, Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources
- Jane Kolodinsky, Department of Community Development and Applied Economics
- Teresa Mares, Department of Anthropology
- Joe Speidel, Local Government and Community Relations
- Amy Trubek, Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences
- Philip Ackerman-Leist, Green Mountain College – Farm and Food Project
- Diane Imrie, Fletcher Allen Health Care - Nutrition Services
- Laurie Ristino, Vermont Law School – Center for Agriculture and Food Systems
- Abbey Willard, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets
- Ernesto Mendez, Department of Plant and Soil Science

**Neuroscience, Behavior and Health**  
*Director* Rae Nishi, Department of Anatomy & Neurobiology  
*Assistant to Director* Hallie Davis-Penders

**Steering Committee**
- Mark Bouton, Department of Psychology
- Brian Flynn, Department of Family Medicine and Office of Health Promotion Research
- Hugh Garavan, Department of Psychiatry / Department of Psychology
- Sharon Henry, Department of Rehabilitation & Movement Science
- Timothy Stickle, Department of Psychology
- Haley Woodside-Jiron, Department of Education
Appendix B

2013-14 Transdisciplinary Research Initiative (TRI)
Steering Committee Achievements

Complex Systems
In the 2013-14 academic year, the UVM Complex Systems Initiative – through the Vermont Complex Systems Center - focused on key events and research activities, met several strategic goals, and received both national and international scientific and media attention for teaching and research. Results include:

- **Complex System Hire in Computational Social Science** – James Bagrow, PhD was recruited as the first complex systems transdisciplinary hire at UVM with no predetermined primary home in a college/school. There will be another round of hiring in FY15 for a second position affiliated with the NSF IGERT program on Smart Grid & Human Behavior.

- **New Website** – [www.uvm.edu/complexsystems](http://www.uvm.edu/complexsystems)
  - Analytics show that the 7000 site visitors come from over 95 different countries
  - Website visitor views up from approximately 10 views/day over past two years to 30 views/day this year
  - 350 UVM faculty and staff subscribing to the “CSC” listserv
  - Incorporation of Facebook and Twitter to outreach efforts, @uvmcomplexity has 439 followers and tweets daily updates on center activities and accomplishments
  - Development of interactive database of projects, papers, press, funding, and collaborators affiliated with the center

- **2013-2014 Goals Met**: Continued development of Complex Systems Center website as a knowledge repository Improve Web-based Outreach; Create System to Capture Website Hits and Viewing of Recorded Talks

- **UVM CSYS social media and crowdsourcing studies go viral on popular news networks around nation & world**, with multiple references on national and international television, radio, and websites, including the Wall Street Journal, Atlantic Magazine, Ellen, NBC’s Today Show, National Geographic, Time Magazine. Josh Bongard appeared on the Science Channel, Through the Wormhole.

- **Computational Story Lab** blog [onehappybird.com](http://onehappybird.com) attracts over 100,000 visitors

- **“FlashMob” Research Program** - Designed to tackle scientific Grand Challenges with a small group of external and internal faculty and students, with the aim of producing at least one major and influential published paper in 6 months.
  - Computational Finance – **University of Miami, Northeastern**
  - Hidden Node Prediction in Networks - **MITRE Corporation**
  - Obesity - **Cornell University Food Lab**
✔ OTC/Commercialization Discussions of the Hedonometer - based on the research of Peter Dodds and Christopher Danforth and their team in the Computational Story Lab at the University of Vermont’s Complex Systems Center, and the technology of Brian Tivnan, Matt McMahon and their team from the MITRE Corporation. Dodds and Danforth have been in discussion with a philanthropic analytics firm interested in using hedonometer as a non-traditional measure of the geographically focused impact of charitable donations.

✔ Grant Submitted For $1.8M MRI: Development of Computational Infrastructure for Large-Scale Data Science, by PI Hines & CO-PIs Melody Burkins, Christopher Danforth, Adrian Del Maestro, and Hugh Garavan CSYS & VACC

2013-2014 goals Met: Continued Growth of UVM Recognition as an Outstanding Transdisciplinary Research Institution around nation and world. Help develop VACC as a data storage and processing system, complementing traditional supercomputing

Macmillan Symposium in spring 2014 introducing UVM complex systems expertise and collaborations through an event entitled “Prediction: The Next Big Thing" Speakers will offer a broad scientific perspective on prediction with application to the interface between physical and socio-technical systems including Biology, Medicine, Healthcare, Social Networks and Dynamics, and Culture.

2013-2014 Goal Met: Hold annual conference in Complex Sociotechnical Systems

✔ Campus-wide Complex Systems Lecture Series to continue the outreach to the community by bringing external experts to UVM to expose the public to complex systems ideas and innovations:
  - Six guest lectures brought to campus with diverse expertise in complex systems.
  - Each lecture is professionally recorded and video-embedded on the Vermont Complex Systems Center website in the TEDx model for continued sharing and outreach

2013-2014 Goals Met: Develop of Regular Series of Talks & Lectures using TEDx Style with Video Recordings on Website; Identify and Invite Potential External Advisory Board Candidates to Campus

✔ Support of a Complex Systems Center biweekly journal club for faculty and students, (READING GROUP) with event attracting 20-30 faculty and students from across campus for each meeting

2013-2014 Goals Met: Expand Reading Groups and Increased Faculty/Student Inclusion; Work On Connections Across Campus To Continue Working In Their Own Areas/Bring People Out Of Disciplinary Silos

Innovations in Undergraduate and Graduate Education:

✔ CSYS Student-driven Meetings continue weekly: SCRAPS (Student Complexity Research and Pizza Seminar) with invited speakers and research discussions ("No Professors Allowed!")
✓ **Online Course in Robotics:** The course site enriches the experience of the 36 undergrads this year, because they can either contribute their own new project or expand/improve student-devised projects from last year.

✓ **Videos of 26 lectures from each of two courses Principles of Complex Systems (Fall 2013) and Complex Network (Spring 2014) are now online,** a resource being shared and used around the world by students and researchers. The course has now also produced 14 academic papers authored by students.

**Additional Outreach:**

✓ **Expansion of Web-based Educational Robotics Tool:** Has attracted several thousand high school and K-12 students from all over the world. Gaelin Paese, a Burlington High School senior, used it to win the Vermont science fair and will now compete in the National Science Fair in Los Angeles.

   [www.uvm.edu/~ludobots](http://www.uvm.edu/~ludobots)

**Future Plans:**

✓ **Undergraduate curriculum** advanced data science and visualization course

✓ **University wide symposium** promoting complex systems

✓ **Secure funding** for the Complex Systems Center and the Vermont Advanced Computing Core (VACC)

✓ **Flashmob 0.4:** Host a fourth FlashMob research event
## Food Systems

In 2013-14, the UVM Food Systems Initiative (FSI) worked to meet the following goals and metrics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food Systems Goal</th>
<th>2013-14 Metric or Activity</th>
<th>Current Status</th>
<th>Source of Support and/or Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Develop New Knowledge</strong></td>
<td>Award 2013-14 FS Teaching, Research, and Outreach Grants</td>
<td>Second year of 2 three-year grants, $100,000 per year to John Barlow (research testing for listeria in raw milk cheeses) and Ernesto Mendez (Vermont Farm Resilience in a Changing Climate Initiative); $2,500 awarded to UVM faculty workshop on Gender, Class, and Food (Aug 2013); $2,500 awarded to workshop on Food Ethics (Mar 2014)</td>
<td>UVM Extension and CALS Dean Funding Support; FSI Operating Budget</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Award FS Seed Funds</td>
<td>$2,500 awarded to David Conner of CALS to study Economic Impacts of Institutional Purchasing with Fletcher Allen</td>
<td>UVM Deans; CDAE; FAHC</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Award Grant Writing Funds</td>
<td>2 faculty using funds to pursue $1.2 million in grants</td>
<td>Office of the Vice President for Research</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Collaborate with non-UVM Institutions, Agencies, Nonprofits, and Other Researchers on Food Systems Issues in VT</td>
<td>FSI Director is chair of Farm to Plate Research Cross-Cutting Team. FSI Director and Assistant participated in Farm to Plate Annual Network Gathering (Oct 2013)</td>
<td>Vermont Farm to Plate Network; FSI Operating Budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Collaborate with Other UVM Transdisciplinary Research Initiatives</td>
<td>Complex Systems team research on Twitter data to understand role of VT food system in social media world; in collaboration with VT Agency of Agriculture and the VT Dept. of Commerce</td>
<td>Office of the Vice President for Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Develop New Leaders</strong></td>
<td>Continue to Build Food Systems Master’s program</td>
<td>First cohort of 5 students to graduate May 2014; 2013-15 cohort includes 6 students in Research Track and 1 student in Professional Track; 14 students accepted for Fall 2014</td>
<td>USDA Challenge Grant provided funds for program development (Pls: Kolodinsky and Trubek); UVM Graduate College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Support Food Systems Leadership Development for Post-Bac Students</td>
<td>Breakthrough Leaders in Sustainable Food Systems Program scheduled for June 2014</td>
<td>Continuing and Distance Education</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Support Food Systems Internships</td>
<td>Food Systems Internship Program placed 8 students in Fall 2013 and 30 students in Spring 2014; 25 sites confirmed for Summer 2014</td>
<td>President’s Career Success Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Support Scholarships and Professional Development</td>
<td>27 student scholarships provided to attend NOFA-VT Winter Conference (Feb 2014); Student participation in Farm to College Convening (Mar 2014)</td>
<td>FSI Operating Budget; Nutrition and Food Science Dept.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Develop New Leaders (cont.)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Support Student Leadership</strong></td>
<td>As staff advisor to the Real Food Working Group, FSI Assistant provides leadership development and guidance to student leaders; UVM hosted Real Food Challenge Regional Training (Feb 2014) with students from throughout the northeast</td>
<td>FSI Operating Budget; Office of the President; Real Food Challenge National Campaign</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Share Knowledge</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sponsor Food Systems Journal</strong></td>
<td>$7,500 annual sponsorship of the <em>Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development</em>, with three other leading food systems universities (Johns Hopkins University, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, and Iowa State University)</td>
<td>FSI Operating Budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Host 3rd Annual Food Systems Summit</strong></td>
<td>1.5-day event scheduled for June 17-18, 2014; 3 keynotes confirmed; 36 abstracts submitted and 9 accepted for panel presentation; collaborating with community partners including VT food producers and nonprofits; accepted papers to be considered for special journal issue edited by UVM faculty and published in the <em>Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development</em> (Winter 2015)</td>
<td>FSI Operating Budget; Macmillan Endowment; Aiken Lecture Series; Office of the Provost; Continuing and Distance Education; community partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Host Seminar Series on the UVM Campus Food System</strong></td>
<td>Designed and hosted 4 seminars on energy and food systems, with a focus on campus and institutional food procurement (Spring 2014)</td>
<td>Clean Energy Fund; Office of Sustainability; FSI Operating Budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Host and Support Food Systems Lectures by Visiting Scholars</strong></td>
<td>Financial and in-kind support of lectures by Alison Aiken (University of the Pacific), Ted Radovich (University of Hawaiʻi), and Abigail Carroll (Fall 2013)</td>
<td>FS Graduate Program; FSI Operating Budget</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Increase FS Communications Outreach &amp; Engagement</strong></td>
<td>Regular social media engagement through UVM Food Feed blog, Facebook (438 Likes), and Twitter (1,135 followers); ongoing exposure through news stories on UVM website and in local press</td>
<td>FSI Operating Budget; Continuing and Distance Education; University Communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Increase Outreach Through Support of Community Partners</strong></td>
<td>Sponsored Vermont Fresh Network Annual Forum (Aug 2013); Sponsored FS track at NOFA conference (Feb 2014); Sponsored US Agriculture Information Network (USAIN) Conference and Agriculture Network Information Collaborative (AgNIC) Annual Meeting, hosted by UVM Libraries (May 2014)</td>
<td>FSI Operating Budget</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Share Knowledge (cont.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Responsible Parties</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Host On-Campus Educational Events for UVM Community and Public</td>
<td>Hosted film and panel discussion on hunger in America in collaboration with VT Community Garden Network and Gardener’s Supply (Oct 2013)</td>
<td>FSI Operating Budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Host UVM Food Day</td>
<td>Supported design and outreach of all-day event, including lectures, Real Food Meals at all dining locations, and documentary screening (Oct 2013)</td>
<td>FSI Operating Budget; Real Food Working Group; Student Clubs; University Dining Services (Sodexo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross-Promote FS Events Hosted by Other UVM Units and Partners</td>
<td>Ongoing outreach support for FS events organized by UVM Colleges, UVM Libraries, UVM Extension, Fleming Museum, and Fletcher Allen Health Care</td>
<td>FSI Operating Budget</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Support Development of Sustainable Campus Dining System as “Learning Laboratory” as UVM “Walks the Talk” of Sustainable Food Systems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Responsible Parties</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maintain UVM Participation in National “Real Food Challenge”</td>
<td>FSI Assistant serves as staff advisor to the Real Food Working Group (RFWG), a multi-stakeholder committee charged with implementing the Real Food Campus Commitment at UVM; RFWG meets monthly; University Dining Services (Sodexo) runs RFC calculator and employs sustainability interns; RFWG connecting with president on future of RFC at UVM (Apr 2014)</td>
<td>Students; Office of the President; FSI Operating Budget; University Dining Services (Sodexo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Request for Proposals Process for New Dining Contract</td>
<td>Current contract with Sodexo expires June 30, 2015. FSI Director, CDE Dean, and FS Master’s Program Director are on RFP committee; RFWG provided input to RFP committee on needs to implement Real Food Campus Commitment</td>
<td>Vice Provost of Student Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop and Maintain Relationships with Farm to Institution Professionals</td>
<td>FSI staff participated in Farm to College Convening (Mar 2014) and continue to develop relationships with organizations such as Farm to Institution New England and the Real Food Challenge national campaign</td>
<td>FSI Operating Budget</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Sustain Leadership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Responsible Parties</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hire New Food Systems Faculty</td>
<td>Search underway; 112 applications received; 4 finalists identified and invited to campus for in-person interviews (May 2014)</td>
<td>Provost Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collaborate with Other Vermont Institutions on Food Systems Education</td>
<td>Ongoing conversations with the Vermont Law School to discuss opportunities for collaboration on food systems related programs grants</td>
<td>CALS Dean; FSI Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participate in Statewide Efforts to Collaborate with Other Institutions on Food Systems Education</td>
<td>FSI Director, FSI Assistant, CDE Dean, and Farmer Training Program Director represent UVM with the VT Higher Education Food Systems Consortium</td>
<td>Office of the President; FSI Operating Budget; Continuing and Distance Education; VT Council on Rural Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop a plan to institutionalize Food Systems Initiative at UVM</td>
<td>Dean of Extension will continue to provide Director level leadership for FSI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Neuroscience, Behavior and Health (NBH) Initiative
FY 2014 Goals and Metrics

The Neuroscience, Behavior, and Health (NBH) Initiative marshals existing strengths at UVM in neuroscience, psychology, rehabilitation sciences, education, and medicine to investigate personal behavior as a major risk factor for disease and disability. NBH will promote transdisciplinary research collaborations that seek a deeper understanding of the fundamental processes underlying these behaviors with the goal of designing effective strategies and policies for promoting health. In addition, we will promote cross-disciplinary education and training in order to enrich the undergraduate and graduate student experience. By doing so, we will raise the visibility of the education, research, and training programs at UVM. For a list of NBH faculty members, please see http://www.uvm.edu/~nbhspire/?Page=faculty.html&SM=facultysubmenu.html.

Over FY 2014, our goals and progress have been:

**Goal: Raise visibility of UVM and public awareness of NBH**

- **NBH Research Forum** 1/24/14 – 1/25/14 in Livak at Davis Center: **165 attendees**: 131 from UVM (37 faculty, 36 grad students, 11 staff, 14 postdocs, 33 undergrads); 3 from local businesses; 14 from other colleges (Dartmouth, Middlebury, Christopher Newport University, CUNY College of Staten Island, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School); 4 high school students

- **Vermont Center on Behavior and Health** ([http://www.uvm.edu/medicine/behaviorandhealth/](http://www.uvm.edu/medicine/behaviorandhealth/)) was established in 2013. Funded by an $11.5 million COBRE (center of biomedical research excellence) grant from NIH and $19.5 million from the FDA for a Tobacco Center of Regulatory Science, this center uses behavioral economics and behavioral pharmacology to support health behavior change in chronic diseases that are caused by risky behaviors. The center is headed by NBH faculty member Dr. Stephen Higgins.

- **NBH social media**
  - **Webpage** ([http://www.uvm.edu/~nbhspire/](http://www.uvm.edu/~nbhspire/)) from 7/1/13 – 3/31/14: 15,963 page views; 11,335 unique; webpage includes complete A-Z list of NBH faculty members plus short descriptions of research and links to research webpages for each faculty member.
  - **Twitter**: we created a Twitter account (@uvmNBH) this past year; we tweet all NBH event (#uvmNBHtalks) and funding opportunities; we currently have 64 followers and 154 tweets
  - **NBH listserv**: we have a total of 259 subscribers

- **Summer Neuroscience Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SNURF) Program**: This is a university-wide summer research opportunity for undergraduates interested in studying neuroscience that is funded by the National Science Foundation and managed by NBH ([http://www.uvm.edu/~nbhspire/?Page=snurf.html](http://www.uvm.edu/~nbhspire/?Page=snurf.html)). The program lasts 10 weeks and provides $5,000 stipend plus dormitory. This year we received **440 applications** from outstanding
college students throughout the USA for 8 positions. We also obtained funding from the College of Medicine for two more positions. All of our first choices accepted our offers; thus, we have 10 outstanding and diverse SNURFs - 50% are from underrepresented minorities.

- **Presidential Distinguished Burack Lectures:**
  - On September 23, 2013 NY Times Washington Bureau Photographer and UVM parent Doug Mills spoke about, "Through the Lens of a Camera: My 30 Years in the White House". Over 200 people attended, including President Sullivan and Former VT Governor Madeleine Kunin.
  
  - On April 10, 2014, NBH co-sponsored a Burack Lecture by Dr. John E. Bates, Professor of Psychology, Indiana University on "Developmental Models of Behavioral Adjustment."

- **Vermont Brain Bee (public outreach):** Fifth Annual held February 8, 2014 - 20 high school students and teachers from 9 high schools (Burlington Technical Center, Champlain Valley Union High School, Colchester High School, Essex High School, Middlebury Union High School, Mount Abraham High School, Rice Memorial High School, Stowe High School, Vergennes Union High School). Interviews for this with Evan Trus, participant and Dr. Rae Nishi were broadcast on WCAX.

  **Goal: facilitate collaborations in research and attract extramural funding**

- **Funding brought in by NBH investigators:**
  - FY12 – 158 awards totaling $38,788,612
  - FY13 – 195 awards totaling $46,108,724
  - FY14 (as of 3/31/14) – 107 awards totaling $40,770,781

- **NBH provided $15,000 in grant writing support to Dr. Stephen Higgins for two grants (COBRE and TCORS) that were awarded to UVM in 2013 for a combined total of $31 million**

- **Microgrants:** we awarded 2 microgrants for cross college collaborations: to Alicia Ebert (Dept Biology, CAS) and Susan Robey-Bond (Dept. Biochemistry, COM), $9,000 for "Construction of an Usher Syndrome Type IIIb blindness and deafness model in zebrafish" and to Betsy Hoza (Dept. Psychology, CAS) and Michael Rosen (Dept. Engineering, CEMS) for "Feasibility and Engineering Tradeoffs for Large-scale Haptics in a Free Moving Research Vehicle."

- **Grant Writing Assistance:** We were given permission by the provost to provide grant writing assistance of up to $10,000 for research projects that involve investigators in two or more colleges. We announced a competition for this and we awarded assistance to Drs. Betsy Hoza (Psychology, CAS) and Michael Rosen (Engineering, CEMS) for PAR-10-234 titled "Bioengineering Research Partnerships" by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This funding opportunity is geared specifically "to support research partnerships...for basic, applied, and translational multidisciplinary research that addresses important biological, clinical, or
biomedical research problems” (http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-10-234.html). It is designed for projects with a 5-10 year projected time frame. The initial award is for 5 years and may be competitively renewed for an additional 5 years.

- **TRI driven hire:** human population geneticist/genomics expert Dawei Li, PhD arrived Fall, 2012 from Yale University. Over this past year, he published 4 papers, 3 as corresponding author and 1 as a co-author and he has submitted 3 more for publication. He also submitted 3 grants for funding; status of these is currently unknown. He has recruited one graduate student and three undergraduates for research projects. He is collaborating with several NBH investigators, including Drs. J. Hudziak and A. Potter.