

CONVERGING PATHS:

Town and Gown

April Isch and Brittany Marom on behalf of the Advanced Digital Art Class
sponsored by Cathy Marmor.

The Advanced 244 Digital Art class will present a site specific art project utilizing the common iPod (a mobile mp3 player with visual display) in a new way to educate and inspire Burlington residents and students alike. We chose to use the UVM green for the setting for the project because for most people it becomes a way to get someplace else and not a destination in itself. We decided to use the iPod because it will allow people to explore the green due to its mobility. Visitors will be invited to interact with a digital, "map" application which we will create. The "map" will be composed of images and sounds of inspirational, historical, and artistic subject matter. For example, there may be a section that tells the viewer about who a specific tree or bench was dedicated to and why. We will also create a tangible, handheld map that can be served for souvenir and promotion purposes or for those who prefer a more "old-school" approach to learning and finding their way around Burlington and the green. Other promotional ideas include signs that might include a thought provoking question and then a link to our project, or place markers to go with the map. The goals of this project are to bring pedestrians' attention back to the green and their environment, to strengthen the sense of community, and to somehow weave the past back into the present. In addition, we as artists hope to gain a better understanding of this digital medium and to explore the subject of place as possible inspiration for future work.