Capstone—a service-learning course that Public Communication students take during their final semester at UVM—is designed to create a culminating experience that brings together the interdisciplinary content that PCOM students learn while pursuing their degree.

This semester’s 54-student capstone class worked with 14 community partners in and around Burlington looking to improve their services, expand their marketing efforts, or develop outreach strategies. For ten hours each week, the fourteen teams worked on consulting projects for these organizations and in mid-April the teams presented the outcomes of the final project and deliverables to the class and their community partners. In addition to providing consulting services to local agencies, capstone students received mentoring on their professional portfolio, resume and cover letter, and interview skills.

It’s not uncommon for PCOM alumni to go on to work for community partners after graduating and many come back to the CDAE department as employees of these organizations to enlist the expertise of the budding professionals taking the Capstone course.
Daniel Kent MPA '14 - Director, Foundation Initiatives at Galvan Foundation

Daniel has been working in the non-profit sector, focusing on organizational development, performance management, and grant making. He is currently the Director at Galvan Foundation, where he has been involved in a range of asset-based community economics projects.

Debbie Krug MS '15 - Research Associate at ICF International

Debbie has been working full-time at ICF International as a research associate for ICF's Health and Education Group since her graduation from the MS program. ICF focuses on designing, testing, administering, analyzing, and reporting survey research primarily related to health economics, policy, and program evaluation.

Olivia Saucier MS '13 - Senior Associate at ICF International

Olivia has been working at ICF as a project manager for various government-funded survey and qualitative research projects. She runs the projects from start to finish and coordinates their execution.

MS and MPA Alumni in the Community

Some of our CDAE alumni continue to work in the field of community development and applied economics.

Support Us!

Please consider supporting the Department with a donation of any size. Your donation will help the Department continue to build partnerships and stronger communities for all of us. Annual giving from alumni and friends at all levels do make a difference. Please consider supporting the Department with a donation of any size. Your donation will help the Department continue to build partnerships and stronger communities for all of us. Annual giving from alumni and friends at all levels do make a difference.
from direct markets to institutional markets, and she was involved in promoting farm-to-school programs and other efforts to expand markets for local food in Vermont.

Ali is currently a Senior Agriculture Extension Specialist at the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. Her work focuses on developing strategies to increase the use of local food in Vermont, including engaging schools in sourcing local food for their meal programs. She has also worked with other organizations to promote the use of local food in Vermont and other regions, and has authored several publications on these topics.

Ali completed her MPA at UVM in 2014, and has since worked in a variety of roles related to local food systems and sustainable agriculture. She has been a key leader in the development of the Vermont Farm to School Network, and has worked with a number of organizations to promote the use of local food in Vermont and other regions.

Ali is currently the State Lead for National Farm to School Network, and is working to build capacity and support for farm to school programs in Vermont and other regions. She has also been involved in developing the Vermont Farm to School Grant Program, which provides funding to schools and other organizations to promote the use of local food in their meal programs.

Ali has a strong background in both academic and practical experience in the field of sustainable agriculture and local food systems. She has a Master of Public Administration degree from UVM, and has worked with a variety of organizations to promote the use of local food in Vermont and other regions.
Alyssa Petani, CID '13 – Support Specialist, Champlain Housing Trust

The Champlain Housing Trust is a critical community resource in the Burlington area: the CHT helps lower to moderate-income families make essential repairs to their homes. The CHT also provides the Manufactured Housing Down Payment Program, providing access to down payment assistance for a new energy star rated manufactured home. Alyssa Petani, CID '13 lends her talents as the CHT’s Lending and Rehab Support Specialist. Alyssa’s work with the Mobile Home Project while a student in CDAE bridged connections to the housing sector in the Burlington area, and after graduating in 2013, she joined Vermont Campus Compact located at CVOEO’s Mobile Home Program. Aft a year in AmeriCorps through Champlain Housing Trust CHT hired her on as a full-time staff member.

Benjamin Gelb, CID '15 - Project Manager at State Street

Nearly a year–after graduating from CID in 2015– Ben began working at State Street, a large Fortune 500 custody Bank, as a Project Manager. He currently leads and facilitates software development aimed at the creation and maintenance of financial tools to be used in investing and trading. He began managing a team of around ten people, and now manages four teams in a multi-million dollar project. While Ben’s current work may have not been exactly what he studied in CDAE, he believes that his four years here prepared him for this opportunity. CDAE has a broad and diverse range of courses, one that allows for learning across many disciplines and the ability for students to continuously challenge themselves. Ben took the opportunity to challenge himself and take several courses in the Masters of Public Administration program through CDAE. These courses helped him understand how to put together a budget and how to allocate funds under monetary and time constraints, a skill that has helped him to excel in his current role. CDAE helped him solidify a problem-solving framework he uses now very successfully to excel in his career.

Kaela Gray, CID '08 – Planning Director, Town of Lyndon, VT

Kaela Gray, a CID '08 graduate is currently serving as the Planning Director for the Town of Lyndon, Vermont. Before stepping into this role, Kaela worked for the Mobile Home Project as a resident organizer, advocating for Mobile Home Park residents to form associations and to know their rights as tenants and homeowners. Her time in the CDAE program gave laid the foundation of experience: she was a key contributor to Dan Baker’s CDAE 273 course focusing on mobile home park resilience in Vermont. "CDAE helped me learn what makes a vibrant community and how to build a collective vision through collaboration," Kaela reflects. "Through continued practice of what I learned, I can help the community shape its path for the future."
While continuing to learn digital skills and presenting new ideas for strategic I-projects, the CDAE Department, in collaboration with the UVM Foundation and Tom Patterson, has established the Tom Patterson Awards honoring Emeritus Senior Lecturer Tom Patterson, who retired in 2012. This award is a $10,000 prize for recognizing student achievements. The first annual award was presented to Rose Fierman, CENT ’12 – Masters Candidate at Colorado School of Mines, who is recognized for her innovative and outstanding teaching. For Rose, this is a significant honor, as she has committed her career to making a difference in the world. Her dedication to education and her ability to inspire her students are truly remarkable.

CDAE Celebrates Students and Faculty at Annual Honors Day

In front of a crowded Memorial Hall in UVM’s Waterman Building, CDAE Chair Jane Kolodinsky granted a suite of awards celebrating the achievements of students and faculty. These awards acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the CDAE community, whose efforts are essential to the success of our program. The first award of the day was presented to Tom Patterson, who was honored for his contributions to the CDAE Department and his family, also awarded its recognition of academic excellence. For those of us who knew Tom, we know that Tom believed in and supported all of his students. Tom was an advisor to many students, including Rose Fierman, CENT ’12 – Masters Candidate at Colorado School of Mines.

The event was a fitting tribute to Tom, who was a true leader in the CDAE department and a mentor to many students. His legacy will continue to inspire and motivate future generations of CDAE students.

In Recognition of Academic Excellence

资源：Economic Institutions for Water

Sydney Durand CID ’15 – Development Coordinator, Phoenix Multisport

As the Development Coordinator for the Boston Chapter of Phoenix Multisport, Sydney is constantly developing a diverse portfolio of fundraising opportunities to support the organization with the mission to foster a supportive, physically active community for individuals who are recovering from a substance use disorder and pivoted, moving into political strategy at Bully Pulpit Interactive. Sydney enrolled in her Masters program, where she plans to utilize her experiences to bring financial sustainability and can continue providing free community programs.

While continuing to learn digital skills and presenting new ideas for strategic I-projects, the CDAE Department, in collaboration with the UVM Foundation and Tom Patterson, has established the Tom Patterson Awards honoring Emeritus Senior Lecturer Tom Patterson, who retired in 2012. This award is a $10,000 prize for recognizing student achievements. The first annual award was presented to Rose Fierman, CENT ’12 – Masters Candidate at Colorado School of Mines, who is recognized for her innovative and outstanding teaching. For Rose, this is a significant honor, as she has committed her career to making a difference in the world. Her dedication to education and her ability to inspire her students are truly remarkable.

CDAE Celebrates Students and Faculty at Annual Honors Day

In front of a crowded Memorial Hall in UVM’s Waterman Building, CDAE Chair Jane Kolodinsky granted a suite of awards celebrating the achievements of students and faculty. These awards acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the CDAE community, whose efforts are essential to the success of our program. The first award of the day was presented to Tom Patterson, who was honored for his contributions to the CDAE Department and his family, also awarded its recognition of academic excellence. For those of us who knew Tom, we know that Tom believed in and supported all of his students. Tom was an advisor to many students, including Rose Fierman, CENT ’12 – Masters Candidate at Colorado School of Mines.

The event was a fitting tribute to Tom, who was a true leader in the CDAE department and a mentor to many students. His legacy will continue to inspire and motivate future generations of CDAE students.
Spring break has long been glamorized as bronzed bodies partying on the shores of Miami, dancing away days on end, oblivious to the world around the vacationers. For students in CDAE, spring break took a different approach: service to others. This year a handful of students embarked on a weeklong excursion that provides students with the opportunity to engage in service-learning through leading and participating in community development and volunteer projects.

The projects focus on community issues such as neighborhood revitalization, parks restoration, youth development, and much more.

CID student Rachel Benjamin participated in the ASB trip to Maryville, Tennessee where the group stayed at the "Once Upon A Time in Appalachia" host site, providing community service on issues regarding the environment and Cherokee Indians to college students. Throughout the week, the group—along with students from three other colleges across the country—worked on a variety of service projects, both in Maryville as well as in North Carolina. They worked in a senior center, cleaned mold from a playground, and planted pine trees in neighborhoods. They also cleared out invasive species from the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, picked up trash from the forest, and helped with trail building and restoration.

"UVM's Alternative Spring Break is an incredible experience that I would highly recommend to anyone, especially CDAE students," Rachel says. "It is a great way for students to expand what they have learned about community development and social justice in a real-world, service-learning context." During ASB, Rachel learned about the importance of protecting and preserving national resources and more about the Cherokee Indian tribe than she expected to.

Rachel and other students in the group learned just how harmful stereotypes can be and the importance of keeping an open mind, free from judgment, when entering a new environment. "One of the most moving statements was when one of the Cherokee Indian men told us to dismantle any preconceived notions we had about what an 'American Indian Reservation' looks like. He explained that not all American Indians live in impoverished communities, like they are so often portrayed in the media," Rachel recounted.

Alternative Spring Break: Service in Action

- **Hunger-Free VT**: Students are working on a video project that shows how to eat healthy on a budget using different mobile apps.
- **VT Foodbank**: Students are developing a marketing campaign for Hunger Action Month in September 2016. They are completing a chalkboard art fundraising project using social media venues focused on college students as the target audience.
- **Vermont Community Garden Network**: Students are doing event planning and providing support for Annual Day in the Dirt. This consists of fundraising, sponsor recruitment, and event day of support.
- **Zoe’s Race**: Students are designing a table/booth for recruitment at the Key Bank VT City Marathon and doing fundraising for the event.
- **UVM Dewey House**: Students are creating a media plan for this residential learning community to target incoming students and university stakeholders.
- **Flynn Center**: Students are designing outreach materials and a logo for a new teachers institute integrating arts in the classroom.
- **CVOEO Vermont Tenants**: Students are redesigning and creating new outreach and education materials for refugees.
- **AFTER the Track**: Students are creating an event on Kentucky Derby Day to fundraise and raise awareness about retired thoroughbreds.
- **RISE VT**: Students are putting together a marketing campaign in the greater state.
- **Chittenden Regional Planning Commission**: Students are surveying young adults in Chittenden County about participation in planning and providing a strategic engagement plan.
- **Williston Church of the Nazarene**: Students are doing event planning for a family carnival day in late April.
- **VT Partnership for Fairness and Diversity**: Students are doing promotional marketing about the African-American Heritage and overhaul social media outlets and providing some capacity-building.
- **Vergennes Union Elementary School**: Students are putting together a local talent show, where they will be promoting the show and providing documentation.