

**Communities of Practice Mentored Internship Program**  
**2021-2022 Annual Report**

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**Program Overview:**

Communities of Practice (COPs) are on-campus, cohort style internships directed by professionals currently working within their respective fields. Launched in the summer of 2019, the program’s goal is to provide mentored, high-quality internship experiences for students in the Burlington area.

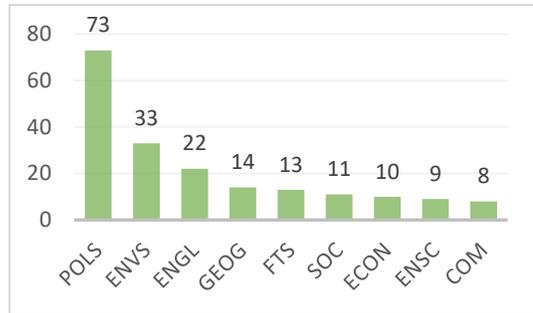
COP enrolled a massive 270 students in AY 21-22 and has been a crucial part of expanding our internship program capacity. Bringing community expertise directly into the classroom to create a melded work- and classroom-based learning experience has enabled students without prior experience and/or access to transportation to have meaningful, integrated experiences on campus.

Looking forward, we are excited to bring each “COP Leader” on as a PT faculty member for AY22-23. This will enable them to take increased ownership of their programs and create a more collaborative, multidisciplinary program overall.

**Student Participation Data:**

<b>Community of Practice</b>	<b>Semester</b>	<b>Course Number</b>	<b># of Students</b>
Community News Service	Fall 2021	AS 189 A	25
	Spring 2022	AS 189 A	31
Communications	Fall 2021	AS 189 B	21
	Spring 2022	AS 189 B	31
Energy & Transportation	Fall 2021	AS 189 C	23
	Spring 2022	AS 189 C	17
Legislative Intern Center	Fall 2021	AS 189 D	20
	Spring 2022	AS 189 D	40
Local Democracy & VT Research	Fall 2021	AS 189 E	11
	Spring 2022	AS 189 E	32
Public Health	Fall 2021	N/A	N/A
	Spring 2022	AS 189 F	19
<b>Total:</b>			<b>270</b>

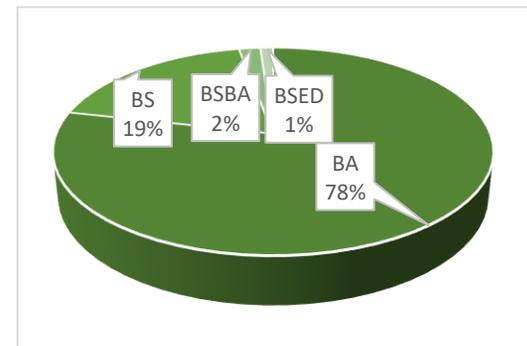
The top majors in Communities of Practice this year were Political Science, Geography, Environmental Studies, English, Film & Television Studies, and Sociology. This changed slightly from last year when the top majors were Political Science, English, Environmental Studies, Global Studies, and History. The increased focus on video in both the Community News Service and Communications COPs and the new Public Health COP attracted more FTS and Sociology students.



This year, participation the COP program trended a bit younger in its demographics than last year with an increased focus on Junior year. The percentage of Seniors dropped from 52% in AY 20-21 to 47% in AY 21-22. At the same time, the percentage of Juniors increased from 27% to 37%. The percentage of Sophomores dropped from 17% to 11%, but the percentage of First Years increased from 4% to 5%.



The COP program is still overwhelmingly comprised of CAS students—78% of COP students are earning a B.A.



### **Communities of Practice AY21-22 Overview by Program**

Each COP leader pulled together an end-of year report touching on their highlights and stellar student work. Here are excerpts from those reports:

#### **Community News Service (AS 189 A)**

*COP Leader: Cory Dawson*

The Community News Service is a public service internship that pairs student reporters with professional editors to help small local newspapers tell the stories of their communities.

Intern reporters in the program undergo weekly journalism training and are paired with one of Vermont’s local newspapers. Many outlets are staffed by one or two dedicated journalists, and some are volunteer run. Training, editing, and managing the interns is largely handled by the program, led by editor Cory Dawson.

Fall 2021 saw the deep expansion of audio reporting via a growing partnership with Vermont Public Radio, led by audio editor Leah Kelleher. Interns contribute to the weekend shows on VPR and are coached through an editing process to adapt their print stories to the radio by Leah and VPR news editor Brittany Patterson. This partnership expanded in Spring 2022 include dedicated community audio interns who contributed regularly to VPR programming. Reporters tackled ambitious projects such as a piece examining pandemic-induced court backlogs in the Northeast Kingdom, on-the-ground reporting from an extreme mountain race, and an interview with a state police officer who was present at the “Irasburg Affair”.

Great strides were made to bolster and make sustainable The Winooski News, the local news source for Vermont’s Onion City. The outlet was created as an effort to bring community news to Vermont’s most diverse city and has a long-term goal of self-reliance. In other words, the goal is for The Winooski News to be an independent, community-run enterprise. The accomplishments of The Waterbury Roundabout stand as a goalpost.

In Fall 2021, CNS hired Jacq Posley, a contracted paralegal, nonprofit board member, youth mentor and volunteer to be the outreach coordinator for the Winooski News. That work was taken up in the Spring by Steven Berbeco who stepped in as Deputy Publisher of the Winooski News. Steven has spearheaded the creation of a community advisory board, made up of community leaders, who have been advising and sending story ideas to the editor and reporters. Steven and business development intern Teá Logli have secured ad partnerships with several local businesses such as Efficiency Vermont and Vermont Smoke and Cure to support the continued growth of the outlet.

*CNS stories are available on the [Community News Service homepage](#).*

### Student Work: Fall 2021

*At The Winooski News, a team of writers have covered a wide swath of news. **Jackson Moffett (Political Science '22)** has covered the ongoing legal battle between the City of Winooski, Montpelier, [and the Vermont GOP over the city's all-resident voting measures](#).*

*Reporter **Kayla Santiago (Religion '25)** has covered the city’s decision to mandate masks indoors, and **Sofi Mendez (Global Studies '23)** has written about federal earmarks that are going to an [in-school health clinic in Winooski public schools](#). The Winooski News has also followed a troubling incident of alleged racism directed at Winooski soccer players during an at times violent soccer game at Enosburg Falls. A Winooski player who allegedly head-butted an opponent and was [referred to the Chittenden County State’s attorney for assault was ultimately not charged](#), and reporter **Eric Johnson (Psychological Science '23)** from The Winooski News was first to the story.*

*CNS is pushing into coverage of the Northeast Kingdom — perhaps the most under-covered region in Vermont. Reporter **Kate O’Farrell (English '23)** is covering the Hardwick and Cabot areas under the tutelage of author Ben Hewitt, who works with CNS as a regional reporting mentor. O’Farrell, a Burke native, has been contributing to The Hardwick Gazette, and among many stories has covered an effort to supply mutual aid in Hardwick, which is a growing trend across the country. O’Farrell has also lent a hand in Waterbury, where she covered a tense [town discussion over flying a Black Lives Matter flag](#).*

*In Waterbury, St. Michael’s College student **Megan Schneider** covered the replacing of [130-year-old stained glass in the oldest church in Waterbury](#). This work was also featured in the Waterbury Roundabout’s “Reader,” which is a print insert in the Times Argus newspaper. Megan has covered*

the [death of Vermont's oldest person](#), a Waterbury resident, and the last of a [19-season run](#) by a Burlington Waterfront creemee stand. The Waterbury Roundabout was founded by Lisa Scagliotti, the original editor of the Community News Service. Lisa founded the outlet after the local newspaper in Waterbury closed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Reporters **Max Dodson (Political Science '23)**, **Abbie Kopelowitz (ID '22)** and **Noah Lafaso (English '24)**, who participated in the internship from the Community College of Vermont in Fall 2021, but has since transferred to UVM, have provided local coverage for the growing communities of Essex, Colchester and Milton. Noah was able to attend a press conference where Gov. Phil Scott unveiled a new initiative to get Vermont school districts electric busses, and he put his photography skills to work [highlighting vendors at a craft show at the Expo](#). Abbie was also able to attend a visit by Vermont's lone U.S. House member and now [U.S. Senate candidate Peter Welch when he came to promote the federal infrastructure package](#) at Burlington's temporary high school in an old Macy's building.

Audio reporter **Andrew Connelly (Music '23)** has covered, naturally, Vermont's eclectic music scene and has put together compilations of CNS work that airs on VPR, as well as assisting other reporters in adapting their work for the ear.

#### Student Work: Spring 2022:

Reporter **Karson Petty (English '23)** has found a niche covering the often arcane world of local planning in Williston. His series of stories on [a major change to local zoning rules](#) — and the pushback from powerful local developers — made the front page of the paper half a dozen times. The Williston Observer serves one of Burlington's largest and fastest-growing suburbs.

In Hinesburg, at The Hinesburg Record, reporter **Gabe Sennott (English '25)** wrote a number of in-depth "Back Story" pieces highlighting the people and places of this iconic Vermont town. Sennott wrote about the town's intrepid father-and-son plow crew days after a major winter storm, a semi-famous local furniture maker, and a true jack-of-all-trades builder who has created a rotating greenhouse and taught himself how to pole vault.

At The Winooski News, a team of writers have covered a wide swath of news. The outlet is quickly becoming a go-to source of exclusive news about the Onion City. **Jack Pitblado (Political Science '23)** has tackled in-depth coverage of city politics and appeared on [community television](#) alongside CNS reporter Jenny Koppang to discuss heated city council and school board races.

Reporter **Mal Flynn (English '22)** has taken on a sports beat in the beginning of his internship, covering the local high school top-ranked basketball team, but has since branched out as interests in journalism has grown. Flynn has profiled [longtime community leader Hal Colston as he moves into retirement](#), dove into the details of [a highly-anticipated equity report](#) and took a historical walking tour in town [as part of the city's 100-year celebration](#). Flynn will be taking the skills he learned at the Communtiy News Service to Maine after graduating, where he landed a reporting job with the [Mt. Desert Islander](#).

CNS has continued coverage of Northeast Kingdom — perhaps the most undercovered region in Vermont. Reporters **Eleanor Lowen (Political Science '22)** and **Sophie Oehler (Political Science '22)** are covering the region under the tutelage of author Ben Hewitt, who works with CNS as a regional reporting mentor. Lowen has covered the effects of higher heating prices, [leading to an increase in wood-burning](#).

Reporter **Sarah Blow (Communications '22)** has stepped up work with *The Valley Reporter* in Waitsfield. Blow has established herself as a key player on the paper, writing profiles of staff and heartwarming features like a story about two elderly brothers who have been [volunteering with Vermont Adaptive Ski & Snowboard](#). Blow has also developed somewhat of an animal beat, covering [tips for hikers to coexist with black bears](#) and [a contentious forum on off-leash dogs](#).

Our podcasting and audio-focused reporters, under the guidance of audio editor Leah Kelleher, and with the help of incoming CNS editor and current deputy news editor at VPR Brittany Patterson have made incredible strides this semester, and their work has a home in the [Local Wire podcast](#).

Reporter **Mae Nagusky (FTS '24)** has led the team among students and through CNS has developed an incredibly strong audio portfolio, setting herself up for a strong career in audio journalism. Among the stories Nagusky has reported this semester [is a piece on an annual mountain foot race that draws contestants from all over the country](#). Nagusky's intimate audio portraits paint a vivid picture of participants and their struggles and triumphs.

Reporter **Emmett Avery (Political Science '24)** has, alongside work for several CNS outlets, completed an ambitious, five-minute long piece for VPR that will air in May (an eternity of air-time, especially for a student) about the state's pandemic-induced court-backlog, and is first to report about a growing trend in court watchers advocating for the increased dismissal of low-level cases that end up in court in the first place.

#### Community News Service in the News:

- [How the University of Vermont is investing in local journalism](#) - *Columbia Journalism Review*
- [Don't get mad, get accurate: Advice on getting back at college administrators who stonewall college journalists](#) – *Poynter*
- [The pandemic has had a viral effect on the University of Vermont's internship programs](#) - *VTDigger.org*
- [Full Disclosure: New Class Prepares Community Journalists to Report the News](#) - *Seven Days*
- [Hard-Pressed | The Fight to Save the Small-Town Newspaper](#) - *Yankee Magazine*
- [Older Adults Are Stepping Up to Help Cover Local News](#) - *AARP Magazine*
- [More Bylines, More Democracy? Attending the Center for Research on Vermont's 2022 Journalism Conference](#) - *The Vermont Community Foundation*

#### **Communications (AS 189 B)**

*COP Leader: Maggie Richardson (social media)*

*COP Leader: Justin Trombly (web content & writing)*

The Communications COP this year was split into two groups based on student interest area. Maggie Richardson, with her background in social media communications worked with students to run the social media pages for the Reporting & Documentary Storytelling minor, UVM Sci-5, the Vermont Futures Project, Winooski News, Vermont Commission on Women, and the Departments of English, Sociology, Global Studies, Economics, Film & Television Studies, Physics, Chemistry, Art & Art History and Romance Languages.

Meanwhile, Justin Trombly, with his background in PR writing and journalism worked with a group of students to maintain CAS's website with stories about faculty, projects, initiatives, etc.

## Student Work: Fall 2021

**Dorcas Lohese (Biochemistry '22)**, has created a virtual community for science majors in CAS under the account name [UVM Sci-5](#) on Instagram. The account has grown from representing the initial 5 majors (chem, biochem, bio, neuro, psych) to include plant bio, math, and physics. The account has over 400 followers and content includes study tips, course highlights, department highlights, student spotlights, jokes, memes, career ideas, and more. With her experience in communications through this internship coupled with her science content knowledge, she was able to land a job at BioTek/Agilent.

**Isabel MacGregor (Global Studies, '22)** has been working with Pablo Bose this semester to build a [social media presence for the Global Studies program](#). She's created a beautiful visual brand for the program and has highlighted students, courses, and study abroad opportunities. She even organized, promoted, and hosted an on-campus study abroad event for Global Studies majors, bringing her online community into the real world. In Spring 2022, she'll be mentoring new Global Studies students to take over the department's communications while continuing to produce content for Instagram herself.

Over in the English Department, **Charlotte Chugh (English '23)** and **Connor Adams (English, '23)** are creating excellent content via their [podcast](#) and **Molly McDonald (English '23)** is hitting her stride with social media management. Between the [conversations with professors](#) on the podcast, [professor book club](#) and [student spotlights](#) on social media, the personality of the department is really shining through. Molly's graphic design skills have been wonderful in terms of making the [Facebook](#) & [Instagram](#) pages look professional but also vibrant. Before **Dominic Bove (Political Science '23)** broke off to focus on FTS's social channels, he was writing, designing, and posting [film reviews](#) to the English accounts as well.

**Willow Zartarian (Economics '23)** wrote several stories for the CAS websites: [9/7/21](#): Covering Department of Economics assistant professor Emily Beam's work on the effects of Covid-19 on education in Bangladesh; [12/10/21](#): Covering growth in the CAS internships, interview with Sophia Trigg

Likewise, **Brady Jalili (Political Science, '23)** covered several programs and faculty in the Political Science Department: [9/30/21](#): Covering a record increase in political science students and the possible explanations for the bump; [10/21/21](#): Interviewing Department of Political Science professor Peter Henne on the Taliban regime takeover; [12/3/21](#): Interviewing Department of Political Science professor Bradley Bauerly on immigration trends in the wake of the Haiti migration crisis; [12/13/21](#): Interviewing Department of Political Science Ewald on public trust in the Supreme Court.

## Student Work: Spring 2022

**Alexa Adjudanpor (Sociology '23)** and **Enrique De La Rosa (Geography '24)** worked on Sociology social media this semester. Alexa focused on [student highlights like these](#) at the beginning of the semester and then moved on to [book features](#), [professor features](#), and [course highlights](#). Later in the semester, Enrique worked on course registration posts like [this](#) and [this](#). They also created story highlights with [Q&A's](#), [books](#), and more.

**Alexa Beltre (Senior '22)** ran English social media this semester and focused particularly on Instagram. She focused on stories to provide more timely information and events over evergreen timeline content. She created a [highlight filled with videos featuring Old Mill](#) including study spots, classrooms, and offices. She got creative with course registration and posted these graphics throughout the couple weeks folks were building their schedules to [another story highlight](#).

**Morgan Humphrey (FTS '24)** ran UVMSci5 this semester, following in the footsteps of Dorcas and building on her progress from last semester. She worked on [exam tips](#), [cover letter advice](#), [weekly jokes](#), and [resume tips](#). She zoomed out the focus to be more inclusive of all CAS stem departments and even STEM programs in other schools. (got an internship with a national stem society)

**Sophia Venturo (Political Science '22)** ran the Art & art history department's social media this semester, leveraging her time as a work/study in the department into promotion of the department overall. She started the semester highlighting intern work from [Semester in the City](#) as well as some [professor news](#). She worked on [student highlights](#), [department events](#), [awardee highlights](#), and [professor features](#).

**Maria Rivera (Anthropology '23)** was the one intern with a site outside of UVM this semester. She worked with the Vermont Commission on Women on their social media with a focus on Instagram. She did background research and copywriting for social media posts and crafted several of her own, starting with Black History month [features of prominent black women](#). She also did a total rebrand of the VCW's policy update posts, taking them from [this format](#) to this [updated look](#).

## **Energy & Transportation (AS 189 C)**

*COP Leader: Faith Ingulsrud*

Students in the Energy & Transportation COP are assigned to sustainable transportation projects that match their interests and academic goals. In addition to the internship project for the semester, students also produce content – writing, social media posts, photography, videography or podcasting – on the sustainable transportation themes explored in class. Content is prepared for possible publication in the Sustainable Transportation Vermont (STVT) blog or other media with help from the professional journalists and channels available at UVM's Community News Service (CNS).

### Student Work: Fall 2021

*In a successful partnership with Burlington Walk Bike Council (BWBW) and the Department of Public Works (DPW), **David Brantley (Environmental Studies '23)** created an inventory of downtown bike racks and created a website. He also produced a very successful project showing inter-city sustainable transportation options for Communications Committee and EcoReps.*

***Paige Carpenter (Environmental Studies '23)** updated and created a map of zoning data for municipalities in Chittenden County with CCRPC using GIS. **Zoe Sreden (Geography '23)** also worked with CCRPC and completed the annual ECOS Regional Analysis of Transportation Indicators.*

### Student Work: Spring 2022

**Julia Lenz (Environmental Studies '24)** worked for Abby Bleything to promote sustainable transportation on campus, with a major focus [on communicating inter-city transportation options](#) for students going to and from Burlington. Julia is continuing her internship over the summer. **McKenzie Kelley (Biology '23)** did data collection and analyses on issues such as the use of the tunnel under Main Street at the Davis Center. Julia is continuing to work for Abby this summer.

**William Loshusan (Environmental Studies '22)** delved into 468 comments written by respondents to the annual [CATMA commuter insight survey](#), helping CATMA better understand current transportation trends as well as to better understand their members. William conducted the analysis, organized the data, and presented it to the CATMA Board of Directors in a way they could use to inform their policies. With help from Hanna Hartman, they prepared publicity for the study on Instagram.

**Dan Haitz (Environmental Studies '22)** assisted the Montpelier City Planning Director in preparing new goals and objectives for sections of the [Montpelier comprehensive plan](#) that are being updated. He researched and interfaced with the committees and city departments that will be approving those sections.

**Victoria Peguri (Environmental Sciences '23)** helped the citizen-run Burlington Walk Bike Council prepare a [five year status report](#) on the progress made to implement the recommendations of Burlington's Walk Bike plan. Working with a Local Motion intern, she helped collect, analyze complex data and produce a clear, professional-looking presentation that is helping citizens understand next steps for improving Burlington's walk-bike infrastructure. She competently presented a draft and a final status report at two separate Walk Bike Council meetings, and calmly managed the feedback of the citizen council members.

## **Legislative Internship Center (AS 189 D)**

*COP Leader: Emily Anderson*

*COP Leader: Liz First Raddock*

The Legislative Internship Center looks quite different from Fall to Spring. Because the Vermont State Legislature is not in session, the Fall session is focused on students interning for individual legislators or local councilmembers. In Fall 2021, this COP was run by Emily Anderson.

The Spring session constitutes CAS's signature program with the Vermont Legislature and 40 students are matched with members of the Vermont Assembly. This larger session is run by Liz First Raddock and produced the following report:

This is the second year of the Legislative Internship Program. Despite another year of operating during a pandemic, I'm thrilled to report that we met all course objectives and more. First, we provided our students with a unique, invaluable and meaningful real-world experience. Second, we provided our participating legislative mentors who have no staff with students eager to help. And, third, we made progress by a) adding enhancements to improve the course and b) started a relationship with new legislative staff.

2022 Program Accomplishments:

- Student applications increase: More than 60 students applied, 50 were interviewed and 40 were accepted. Those accepted were predominantly upperclassmen. Their schedules offer flexibility to go to the Statehouse. In addition, their maturity and focus has proven to be a key ingredient to a successful internship. In total we had 21 seniors, 13 juniors, 5 sophomores and 1 first year.

- New relationship with Legislature: This was the first year we established a working relationship with Legislative staff and public officials including the Legislative Human Resources office and the Sergeant of Arms. They coordinated numerous required forms and training. The Chief of Staff for Senate Pro Tem met regularly with UVM to guide our new relationship. Liz and Sophia met regularly last summer and fall to ensure that all administrative requirements were met and that this critical, but behind-the-scenes aspect of this course went smoothly.
- New Support Policy: When a legislator suggested that an intern needed support, we set up weekly meetings with individual students. When a student alerted us that their legislator wasn't making themselves available, we intervened to try to facilitate the connection.

#### Legislative Mentor Successes:

- More than half of last year's legislative mentors and a House committee returned as mentors. Twelve legislators, two members of the GOP and two state senators signed on for interns for the first time. Positive word of mouth and relationships are our currency and it is up to us make the experience worth it for busy legislators.

#### These legislator testimonials are a few examples of the mutual aspect of this internship:

- *"As usual, I had a great experience."*
- *"Very appreciative to have the help."*
- *"I enjoy mentoring/teaching and also benefit from the work product of interns. I think this is an important part of being a legislator."*
- *"This is the second year I have had an intern work to work with me on the women's legislative caucus. It has proven to be a good structure for an internship - giving some structure and broad enough for a student to find a policy area of interest."*

#### Career Advancement:

- This course mentors provides students with professional development. They experienced work in a professional, serious and fast-paced environment. They are now armed with skills, confidence, and drive to make them desirable employees. They created, updated and added appropriate headshots to their LinkedIn accounts and resumes. Some students mentioned how happy they were to finally be on LinkedIn. Through Blackboard, they connected to the UVM Career Center to get resume assistance. As previously noted, our guest speakers broadened their knowledge of what careers are available to them and offered suggestions and how to obtain them. Many students mentioned that they were exposed to career paths such as lobbying, non-litigating legal work and social work for the first time. Guest speaker list is below.

#### Legislative intern alums who used their internship network to find jobs in Vermont:

- Bill Heath, UVM '21, campaign manager, Rep. Charlie Kimbell for VT Lt. Governor
- Rowan Hawthorne, UVM '21, Committee Assistant, VT House Energy & Technology
- Ryan Joseph, UVM '21, staff, US Sen. Bernie Sanders's Burlington office.

#### Looking Forward:

We plan to grow this course and deepen and improve the experience for students and legislators. To further prepare students before the legislative session, we'd like to have prerequisites for this course, including requiring that students take the fall legislative internship course and other basic political science classes.

Most important, we hope to require that students schedule spring classes around the legislative schedule. Additionally, we'd like to offer students a full-semester internship.

Ideally, we'd like to secure a source of funding or financial aid for students who otherwise can't afford to take this class. Many students need paying jobs and can't afford to participate in an unpaid internship. Transportation to Montpelier is a barrier, too, and although the GMT bus is free, the bus schedule doesn't fit most students' schedules.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the 2022 Spring Legislative Internship Program was a success. Students gained first-hand knowledge about the Legislature and state government more broadly. In addition, they developed relationships with their Vermont legislator-mentor, as well as with one or more UVM alumni contact from a career field that interests them and who they found by networking on UVM Connect. They also connected with a UVM student who had interned with their legislator last year. They have a portfolio of their professional work, developed professional skills, and created LinkedIn accounts and resumes. Most importantly, they developed a new sense of self confidence that they didn't have when they began this class.

### Student Work:

*These student testimonials are just a few of the many positive experiences:*

- *“In the last few months of working as an intern I have learned more about myself than I could have ever imagined.”*
- *“I honestly loved everything about this experience. I am so grateful and happy that I decided to take a chance with this program since I think this is something that has helped me out the most with my future career!”*
- *“(I appreciated) being able to experience the process of the Vermont government and seeing how many different careers interact with the process”.*

*Nextern letter samples: [Noah Ring \(Political Science '22\)](#) | [Becca Tomarkin \(Psychological Science '22\)](#) | [Talia Goldstein \(Political Science '24\)](#) | [Orielle Koliba \(Political Science '23\)](#)*

*Informational Interview samples: [Annie Haseley \(Political Science '24\)](#) used UVM Connect | [Andrew Hegarty \(Political Science '22\)](#) on Jane Fortin, Assistant Director of the Workforce Development Division at the Vermont Department of Labor | [Ben Barry](#) on campaign worker*

### **Local Democracy & Vermont Research (AS 189 E)**

*COP Leader: Meg Little Reilly*

In Fall 2021, the Center for Research on Vermont welcomed its first class of the Local Democracy Towns Internship, a partnership between UVM's Center for Research on Vermont and the Vermont League of Cities and Towns. The program is an opportunity for UVM students to work directly with town municipal offices to support local administration and civic participation. Spring 2022 was the second semester for CRVT's Local Democracy Internship program and yet the number of participating UVM students and Vermont towns more than doubled in size since its inception.

For this internship, most of the participating students were assigned to a specific town. In each place, we worked with a contact in town offices to identify a project or series of projects that

students could contribute to. This work encompasses a range of tasks to meet students interests and skills including research and data-gathering; public outreach and social media campaigns; surveying residents to understand priorities and how they want resources allocated; and administrative assistance for select board meetings.

In addition to providing UVM students with meaningful educational opportunities, the vision for this program is threefold:

- To help forge in-state professional relationships between students and potential employers for post-college life.
- To strengthen the civic infrastructure of Vermont and improve the health of our democracy.
- To help deliver on UVM's land-grant mission to contribute to the success and well-being of the people of Vermont. Just as President Garimella has reiterated our commitment "to engage with and support the people, communities and businesses in all 14 counties of Vermont," this program is a hands-on opportunity for students to support effective problem-solving, civic trust, and democratic practices.

### Student Work:

**Fairlee:** *Eliza Frankenthaler (ENVS '23) and Carly Valko (ENVS '23) are working with the town administrator in Fairlee to collect data on water and septic systems among residents with lakefront homes.*

**Winooski:** *Dina John (Political Science '22) is working with the town of Winooski to help identify ways that they can better serve residents who don't speak English, particularly in the education system.*

**Fair Haven:** *James Bottino (ENVS '22) is working with the town manager in Fair Haven to assist in development plans of an affordable housing project. He's also helping to line up vendors for an upcoming festival in the town.*

**North Hero:** *Isla Parton (Anthropology '23) is working with the North Hero library director on an oral history project which will tell the story of the region.*

**Bristol:** *Patrick Ladd (Physics '22) is working with the Bristol Energy Committee, attending meetings and helping to devise a strategy for meeting the town's energy efficiency goals, including the introduction of electric vehicle charging stations.*

**Fairfax:** *Jolie Preece (ENVS '23) is working with the town manager of Fairfax to create more interactive web tools for residents to understand the workings of their town, including the creation of story maps and a chat function.*

**Wheelock:** *Meaghan Feeney (Political Science '23) is working with the Wheelock select board to help them devise a plan for polling residents and making public offices ADA compliant using ARPA funding.*

**Marshfield:** *Victoria Smeltzer (ENVS '23) is working with the Marshfield town administrator to craft and execute a public outreach plan to attract more young people to join public committees.*

**South Burlington:** Kaleigh Vachereau (Anthropology '22) is working to update the demographic information and resources on the town web site and improve communications to residents.

**Alburgh:** Grace Hasselbach (Political Science '22) is working with the Alburgh select board to help all local decision-makers understand how ARPA money can be implemented, including conducting presentations to the board.

**Tinmouth:** Logan Younce (Political Science '22) is working with the Tinmouth Town Clerk to modernize the town web site and make all the information on it current. He's also conducting research on the town to create a historical brochure on Tinmouth's past.

**Milton:** John Harrington (History '22) is working with the Milton Town Manager to identify new ways to communicate with residents who do not use social media or email.

**Lincoln:** Skye Devlin (Sociology '23) is working with the Milton Town Administrator to help create systems for organizing records and past decision-making.

**St. Albans:** Philip Haddad (Healthy & Society '23) is working with the Town Manager of St. Albans on a variety of issues that intersect with town administration and ARPA spending.

**Randolph:** Will Weiss (Philosophy '22) is working with the town manager of Randolph to conduct research on a long-term plan to convert private land to a community ski hill.

**Brandon:** CCV student Liam Laramie is working with the town of Brandon on marketing and communications strategies, with a focus on a spring event in the town.

#### **Vermont Research: Country Stores**

Nora Greeley (Economics '22), Thomas Treadwell (BSAD '22), Shannon Kaiser (History '23), Mac Weaver (FTS '22) and Lucinda de Laney (Economics '24) are working together on a year-long research project run by the Center for Research on Vermont in partnership with Preservation Trust of Vermont. The students are conducting interviews with owners of country stores across Vermont to identify what's working for these small business owners and what changes they would like to see at the local and state level to help support their work. The final report will be released in summer 2022.

#### **Vermont Research: Legislative Tracking**

Sophie Moyer (PRT '23) and Martin Clarke (Mathematics '23) are working with Vermont think tank Public Assets to conduct daily tracking of critical legislation that will impact the well-being of Vermonters. CRVT has partnered with Public Assets in the past and it is always a substantive and rewarding experience for interns.

#### **Vermont Research: Town Budgets**

Marjorie Brown (Political Science '22), Maggie Adams, Nicholas Kebo (Economics '24), and Andrew Langdon (Political Science '22) are compiling town budget data to create a statewide report on relative police spending across the state. The project is part of CRVT's ongoing commitment to make public budget data transparent and accessible to all Vermonters to support informed decision-making on Town Meeting Day and throughout the year.

#### **Vermont Research: Agricultural History**

*As part of CRVT's Vermont Books publishing arm, Frances Holderby (Geography '23) and Abigale Szlajen (ENVS '23) are conducting research to assist former Agricultural Commissioner Roger Albee on a forthcoming book about the agricultural history of Vermont.*

## **Public Health (AS 189 F)**

*COP Leader: Barbara Rachelson*

A partnership between the College of Arts & Sciences, Health & Society, and CNHS' Health Sciences program, the Public Health Community of Practice aims to bring students together across disciplines for the purposes of furthering the overall health of Vermonters. Spring 2022 is the first semester of the Public Health COP and after a last minute swap in January, Barbara Rachelson, who is currently serving her fifth term representing part of Burlington, Vermont in the Vermont House of Representatives, took the helm.

Students are matched with an organization related to public health depending on their interests. Some took on a more public policy feel, while others focused on direct service. Sites have included: the American Heart Association, Cathedral Square, Epilepsy Foundation of New England, Prevention Works, Vermont Public Health Association, UVM Office of Emergency Management, United Way of Northern Vermont, and the Vermont Public Health Association.

Going forward, increased collaboration with the CNHS Public Health program will help us maintain great relationships with our community partners and ensure clarity on all sides.

The class welcomed several guest speakers throughout the semester: Grace Keller of The Howard Center, Burton Wilcke Professor Emeritus and Epidemiologist, Tanya Wells of the Vermont Health Department, Steve Berbeco of United Way of Northwest Vermont, Harry Chen former Commissioner of the Vermont Dept. of Health, Paulette Thabault Dean of Nursing at Norwich, and Patsy Kelso the State Epidemiologist.

### Student Work:

*Chloe Shoff (Health & Society '23) interned at Windham County Prevention Partnership and completed an excellent project with the Young Adult Cannabis Campaign. Chloe reviewed and provided feedback on selected campaigns, planned for, and co-facilitated a group discussion with young adults in the county, debriefed, and came up with potential strategies based on input. Chloe also put together the promotional content to create ads and posts with.*

*Garrett Walters (Anthropology '22) was brought onboard as a UVM Intern for the SASH program at Cathedral Square to help with a project to introduce SASH participants to iPads granted to SASH last year during the C19 pandemic and to develop a workshop introducing SASH participants to technology needs in the older adult population at several sites (i.e., Williston Woods, Whitney Hill, McAuley Square, Ruggles House and Community Participants). Garrett produced programming that was well received by the SASH participants and engaged with his audience well.*

*Julia Sarrasin (Health & Society '23) wrote the following in her final reflection on her internship at Building a Positive Community: "During my time at BAPC, I worked on two main projects. The first project was on nicotine cessation in which I mostly did different types of research. I updated information on a nicotine cessation presentation, gathered quotes from young adults on their experiences quitting nicotine, and worked on evaluating various types of VDH cessation resources. The second project was focused on cannabis."*

*Student successes: several students in the Spring 2022 cohort were hired as summer interns:*

- *Chloe Shoff at Windham County Prevention Partnership*
- *Julia Sarrasin at Windham County Prevention Partnership*
- *Libby Tuttle at Windham County Prevention Partnership*
- *Sonia Harris at Champlain Valley Supervisory District (CSVD)*
- *Zachary Taylor at Vermont Heart Association*

*And one student, Hannah Buscher was offered a job at Cathedral Square in the SASH program.*