



NEWSLETTER SPRING 2020

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The University of Vermont

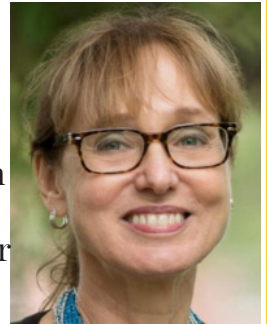
A Note From The Chair, Dr. Jane Kolodinsky

In order to deliver the best applied curriculum to our students, we have fantastic part-time faculty as part of our CDAE team. This semester's newsletter highlights two of them: Myles Jewell and Prem Timsina. Jewell, an accomplished ethnographer, filmmaker and photographer, has an undergraduate degree from UVM and an MA from New York University in Cinema Studies. Enjoy the story about Jewell's Community Based Media course that focused on the Bauer Family Boathouse in Burlington in Spring 2020. Timsina, who holds a Ph.D. in Education from UVM, came to Burlington from Nepal. For the past several semesters, he has taught classes in multiculturalism and recently taught a faculty-led study abroad course that traveled to Nepal over winter break.

CDAE student Hannah Shoshan provides her viewpoint in the story, Service Learning in Nepal: "Community Development Requires a Bottom-Up

Approach." CDAE's applied approach that builds on a strong liberal arts base provides an education that prepares students for meaningful employment. This edition of the CDAE Newsletter also highlights several of our student interns and our graduates.

From entrepreneurs and consumer advocates, to public communicators and planners, current students and graduates of CDAE programs report on their experiences in the community. These extraordinary times call for a recommitment to our communities. Our students, faculty and staff in CDAE chose a commitment to community development long before the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the need.



CDAE Community Based Media Class Documents Burlington's Auer Family Boathouse

by Cian Duffy '20

If you tried to go into the computer lab in Morrill Hall this past semester on a Monday night, part time lecturer and documentary filmmaker Myles Jewell and his CDAE 195: Community Based Media students might make that task a little harder than anticipated.

It's not because they don't want you there, but rather their makeshift vox-pop interview space might be blocking the entrance and opening the door may shake the stop motion studio they've constructed (Continued on p.4).



CDAE Students Stephanie Hodel & Ally Kilcoyne Interviewing the Auer's cousin Irena LaBombard

Service Learning in Nepal: “Community Development Requires a Bottom-Up Approach”

An Interview with Hannah Shoshan '20



CDAE students from the Travel Study to Nepal enjoy the views at a local restaurant in Pokhara with Professor Timsina



The CDAE 195 group visits the Swayambhunath Temple or “Monkey Temple” In Kathmandu, Nepal. The students saw monkeys, were able to participate in Buddhist customs, and learned about the cultures of Buddhism and Hinduism (Photo by Prem Timsina)



UVM students take a quick rest after hiking up to a beautiful view of the Machapuchare (Fishtail) mountain in Ghachak, Nepal. (Photo by Prem Timsina)

The travel study course CDAE 195: Nepal Culture in Education, Gender and Development offers an opportunity to gain real world service learning experiences in Nepal.

The course begins in a classroom on UVM's campus during the fall semester where students gain an in depth understanding of culture in Nepal and how to practice multiculturalism through many readings, class discussion, and group projects. The course transforms over winter break when the students embark on their journey to Nepal. In the travel portion of the class, small groups of students work with the professor to address a research topic, such as gender equality or human rights, in a research paper.

Hannah Shoshan, a past student of the UVM Travel Study to Nepal, reflects on how the service learning course this past winter has changed her perspectives and impacted her future.

How did you hear about this course? What were your expectations going into it?

When I was a sophomore, I was looking into study abroad programs that would fit with my studies in the community and international development major. I wasn't completely comfortable with the idea of being away for an entire semester and I was unaware of any shorter programs, so I thought I wouldn't be able to have any sort of abroad experience. In the spring I received an e-mail from the CDAE

department about a UVM Travel Study to Nepal. The message had a short description of the program, offering a chance to get real-world experience of multiculturalism, gender, and community development in Nepal. I was immediately super interested in this travel study and attended an info session in April.

After the info session, I learned that the program involves a class in the fall semester and a 3-week travel experience over winter break. I met with the instructor who runs the course, Professor Prem Timsina, for an interview to apply to the program. After speaking with him I immediately felt very comfortable and excited at the opportunity to be a part of this program. Professor Timsina is a very warm, caring, and genuine man who really cares about the student's experience.

What are some learning experiences from the trip that stand out for you in terms of community development?

Interacting with schools and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) opened my eyes to a whole side of community development I didn't even realize existed. During the first week of our travels our group attended a meeting with members of the Informal Sector Center (INSEC). INSEC is one of the key NGOs working for improved human rights and education. We were welcomed into their office and immediately offered tea as we all sat around a conference table.

Three people who work for INSEC as well as a local journalist stood up and introduced themselves and their role in the organization. They took turns discussing their role as an NGO is in the country. It was very evident that there are big challenges they face. The earthquake that happened in 2015 and the high levels of federal corruption seemed to be very big factors in what projects they take on now.

Improving the quality of education for young people was a big priority for the NGO. This was reflected in the community, where we visited some of the local schools. But before the quality of education can improve, they first need to rebuild the schools that collapsed during the earthquake. This part alone can take a very long time and requires a lot of manual labor.

A major takeaway I got from listening to the project is that it can't be successful unless everyone is on board and working together. This made me think of what I learned in Kelly Hamshaw's class, CDAE 102: Sustainable Community Development. Community development requires a bottom-up approach, meaning it needs to involve the people that it will impact. The NGO put this idea into practice by targeting local community members in their efforts to increase education quality.

Was there a skill or lesson you learned in the course that surprised you?

A big lesson I learned throughout the entire travel portion of the course is the importance of being flexible. I had considered myself a "go with the flow" type of person before the trip, but at many times I strug-

gled with needing to know the exact plan for the day or week. I wanted to be prepared and stick to a schedule, but I quickly learned the beauty of embracing experiences as they come. There were many points in the trip where we had to improvise or change the plan last minute and although it may have caused me anxiety in the beginning, by the end I was able to embrace these changes.

I was introduced to the concept of "Nepali time," where everything takes a little bit longer and things don't revolve around your personal schedule. This required me to make a mental shift in how I view and react to situations. Some of the best memories I made on the trip were the ones that were unplanned. I learned to be grateful for my experiences and take the phrase "go with the flow" to a whole new level.

Has this course impacted your career or life in any way?

I am so glad I was able to go on this trip and I am so thankful for all Professor Timsina has done to organize it. There is such a strength in gaining real-world experience that reading from a textbook can't emulate. I learned so much through this class about myself, the power of community development, and the world as a whole. It takes more than one group of people to make a change.

For more information about the course please write to Professor Timsina (ptimsina@uvm.edu) for course permission with a brief introduction about you and your academic background.



The CDAE 195 class travels to Pokhara, Nepal and learns about an orphanage that prioritizes sustainability and self-sufficiency. The children are taught how to farm and they are able to harvest enough organic produce to feed all of the children. (Photo by Prem Timsina)



Collages from a slideshow made by Dominic Portelli.

The photos came from friends of the boathouse during the student-hosted community circles.

CDAE COMMUNITY BASED MEDIA CLASS DOCUMENTS

BURLINGTON'S AUER FAMILY BOATHOUSE (CONT.) by Cian Duffy '20

Stop motion and conducting interviews are just two of the many hands-on production work students get in this class. Jewell uses his experience in documentary filmmaking to teach his students how to shine a light on the hidden stories of a community.

For the past school year, the class has centered around the Auer Family Boathouse, a local community business providing Lake Champlain access and boat rentals to Burlington residents since 1928. For nearly a century, members of the Auer family have been welcoming families, boaters and picnickers to their shores. It's a community gathering place and a celebration of summer fun.

In Jewell's class, students get the opportunity to explore regional history through the lens of the boathouse. In their fieldwork, students meet the people who have helped Burlington's North Enders survive through the Great Depression, world wars, and periods of regional industrialization. Students have been documenting stories of floods and droughts, the rise and fall of factories and mills, and other pivotal events that have shifted Burlington's economy.

This semester, students divided into teams to chip away at the ambitious project of making a documentary on the Auer Family Boathouse without outside funding. "[We're] trying to create small projects that then scaffold into something a little bit larger," Jewell explains. "As opposed to blurting out a bunch of information and saying, 'now go try and figure it out,' and instead make a smaller box to check before we can check this larger one."

A business as seasoned as the Auer Family Boathouse casts a wide net of visitors, friends, and

family. One student interview group focused on hosting community circles for the boathouse goes to tell their stories and to digitize their archival materials. Another group is dedicated to pitching the project.

Jewell and his students are currently seeking funding to have the documentary produced. This requires a proposal look book, a movie trailer, and a website. Students are applying their visual design skills in this proposal aspect of the project.

Although there are designated groups within the class, Community Based Media still takes an individualized approach. There are students using their Photoshop skills to do after effects in the editing process to enliven the archived pictures. Some students have chosen to build stop motion sets and edit together scenes from previous footage.

Scene building is another concept Jewell teaches his students throughout the semester. "A scene can just be a moment," Jewell explains.

"There's this old Hollywood axiom, 'a scene is never really about what the scene is about,' so trying to think of small moments that seem insignificant and how those can kind of speak to a larger theme. That's what we're thinking about."

This project doesn't end when the semester's over. Jewell himself started the early work on this project, mainly by building a relationship with the Auer family starting two years ago. Jewell hopes to continue this project next semester with another section of the class. You can watch CDAE 195's documentary trailers here:

<https://vimeo.com/375258504/af7ccaae7e>

<https://vimeo.com/405131943>

TALKING COMMUNITY ENTREPRENEURSHIP WITH CDAE GRADUATE SAMMY HEDLUND, FOUNDER OF TAKEOUTSHORTS

by Dani Agin, '23

Sammy had been shepherded into a conversation the second he walked into the Howe Library to speak with me on a Thursday afternoon in late February. The business owner/UVM bike coach is still a popular face on campus despite having graduated last May. Sammy Hedlund is a CDAE graduate. He founded TakeoutShorts, a popular clothing brand among UVM students and the Burlington community, during his junior year as a Community Entrepreneurship major.

He was a pleasure to talk to and was full of entertaining and unique stories, from getting scammed by a fake company during his quest for a small batch clothing manufacturer to making his friends do backflips in their shorts for an Instagram campaign. Sammy represents his company with extreme authenticity, and while describing TakeoutShorts to me he laughed at his repeated use of a word, saying “I feel like organic is the word of the day for me.”

Dani Agin: How did you come up with the idea for TakeoutShorts? Why shorts?

Sammy Hedlund: Takeout is essentially a groundswell of support from all my friends. I started junior year, I had my sister send me her old sewing machine back from Minnesota where I'm from. I basically just wanted to figure out how to tailor my clothes so everything would fit me better. I was just kind of playing around. One of the first things I made within my first month of cut and sew stuff was a pair of shorts, and I really liked them. I started making my friends some pairs. I'd have them come over, measure them, ask what they wanted, the style they want, the fit they want and then make them a pair of shorts. I think Takeout worked here [in Burlington] because in general, the folks here tend to gravitate towards people who are doing something cool, people who are doing something authentic, because that's what they're doing.



Sammy Hedlund, Founder and CEO of TakeoutShorts, wearing a pair of his company's shorts.

DA: Has being a part of CDAE helped with TakeoutShorts?

SH: Even as a baby entrepreneur of 22 years old, I can tell you, you cannot learn how to start a business in a classroom. That's not to say I'm not thankful for what the entrepreneurial program provided me. You can get a really good base of knowledge for potential marketing schemes, or potential ways to structure your business, but ultimately you gotta do it yourself.

One of the biggest benefits of being a CDAE major has actually been the network of my professors and my advisor. I've been able to rely on a lot of really friendly folks within Burlington that just want to see young entrepreneurs succeed. People are very willing to help.

DA: Okay, I have to ask about the tattoos.

SH: I don't know if there's a story for how that one came about. I was expecting maybe one or two crazy people to toss a tattoo on their butt, but I think up to like, twelve or thirteen folks have done it now, which is hilarious. For every time for their entire life someone asks them about that cute little bag they have on their leg, they'll probably say something along the lines of “oh well I thought it was a cute little bag, and also it's the logo for this company that's really funny that they gave me a free pair of shorts because I got this tattoo.” It just sparks a lot of conversation.

Visit <https://www.takeoutshorts.com/>

CDAE INTERNS SPOTLIGHT

Jake Gorton '19

Major: Community Entrepreneurship

Internship: Vermont Craft Mead Company in Colchester, VT



Tasks: During Jake's time at Vermont Craft Mead Company he was able to learn all of the different roles of a small business from head brewer, accounts manager, and head of sales/marketing. He learned about the process of brewing 900 gallon batches of mead with the Head Brewer, then tracking the fermentation process using industry specific tools, and eventually packaging the beverage in cans and then cases. He worked with the company owner to learn about administrative duties that come along with small businesses including tracking inventory, paying taxes, and submitting invoices. He also assisted with sales and marketing by working at various events that showcased their brand and products directly to customers.

Highlights: Learning what it takes to run a small business and receiving a job offer. "As someone who is studying Community Entrepreneurship, and who hopes to one day open a small brewery, the opportunity to work with a small company in the Craft Beverage industry, and to learn from the industry leaders in Craft Mead was an incredibly valuable hands on experience. Having actually been hired on at Groennfell has been a dream come true. I am enjoying the freedom and responsibility that comes along with working at a small business. While I do not intend on attempting to open my own brewing business anytime soon, I do intend to work for Groennfell post graduation and to stay involved with the craft beverage industry in future careers."

Katie Robinson '19 CDAE MS Candidate '21

Major: Community & International Development

Internship: Vermont Works for Women in Winooski, VT



How did Katie find this internship? She first learned of this opportunity at the UVM job/internship fair her first year as a student, and the opportunity stuck with her ever since so she decided to follow up. "I chose this internship because the organization's mission aligned with my interests, specifically gender equity and the empowerment of women and girls."

Tasks: Katie's internship focused on program development and implementation with the girl's program at Vermont Works for Women. She assisted with various office tasks, outreach at conferences and events, co-facilitating activities, program development and implementation, and working with survey data to track responses of participants at events.

Highlights: Katie was able to get hands-on experience in a non-profit that focused on the intersection of gender and development, while also being able to interact with the community that she was aiming to serve, which is middle school and high school aged girls who are encouraged to explore STEM and trade careers. She was able to gain professional skills and make meaningful network connections and friendships while determining that the non-profit sector is where she wants to pursue her professional and academic career.

CDAE INTERNS SPOTLIGHT

Andrew Salerno '21

Major: Public Communication

Internship: Sticky Brand in Burlington, Vermont



An interview with Andrew Salerno, conducted by Lily McGabe.

Lily McGabe: What does Sticky Brand do?

Andrew Salerno: Sticky Brand is a Burlington based sticker business and design company. We do stickers, banners, and all sorts of promotional material for businesses and artists, both in house and out of house.

LM: What do you do?

AS: I run production; I work in production so I design stickers, print them, format them, cut them, package them, and bag them. I also started doing design work for clients and personal stuff as well here.

LM: What is your favorite part?

AS: I have learned how to use design software a lot better, and I have really improved incredibly. Because of that, I have been able to print my own stuff here, and now I can do it on my own. It is really rewarding to do that.

LM: How did you hear about this internship?

AS: I knew sticky brand before because I have had stickers made here before because I am an artist on the side. I really wanted to get a job here and a week before school started I saw the internship posting and I applied and I got it. The posting was in [CDAE Internship Coordinator] Alie Saharnis's internship emails. Thank you to CDAE for helping me find this internship and for allowing me to get credit for something I enjoy doing.

CDAE internship material compiled by Gabriella Pais.

Brianna Hillier '21

Major: Public Communication

Internship: University of Vermont Athletics, External Relations & Communications



Tasks: Brianna is responsible for live-tweeting the action during sports games, generating graphics to post while the games are being played, and post key statistics. She also does three hours of office hours a week where she works in the communications department at Patrick Gym. Sometimes it is to write press releases, athlete biographies, season prospectus, photo ID-ing and editing, graphic development, website management, game-day programs, and more.

Highlights: "The most memorable part of my internship during my time with the communications department was when the Men's basketball team won the America East Conference title last March. Major games like that are always an all-hands on deck situation, and I was assigned a media pass to run around the entire event taking pictures and videos to post to our social media. Overall, I've loved seeing all the behind the scenes work that goes into athletics."

Interested in securing an internship and receiving academic credit for the experience?

Contact Alie Sarhanis, CDAE Internship Coordinator: alie.sarhanis@uvm.edu

For more information: go.uvm.edu/cdae-intern.

ALUMNI IN ACTION

Public Communication



"Without a doubt, I wouldn't be where I am right now without the way that I was taught about communications at UVM."

- Mariah McGough '17, Everytown for Gun Safety

Mariah McGough '17 was a high school senior in the town neighboring Newtown, Connecticut when the unthinkable massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School occurred. Now a communications associate for Everytown for Gun Safety, a New York City-based nonprofit, she works with volunteers and families touched by gun violence, helping them share their personal stories with the media in the hopes of affecting change in gun violence legislation. McGough credits her public communication major at UVM, and in particular a course on socially responsible marketing, as a key influence in her nonprofit career.

Community and International Development

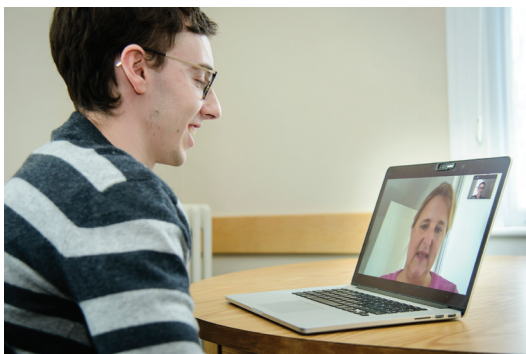
"UVM was a wonderful and supportive place to explore, and this program was an applied version of all of my passions combined." - Mariah Noth '17, Vermont Farm & Forest Viability Program

Born and raised in Vermont, Mariah Noth '17 is a strong advocate for her home state. Having graduated with a B.S. in community and international development and a minor in food systems, Mariah now works as the outreach and communications coordinator for the Vermont Farm & Forest Viability Program. There she helps connect Vermont working lands businesses and citizens with expertise and advising to empower entrepreneurs and strengthen the state's rural communities. While at UVM, she took advantage of travel study courses to Peru, Italy and Brazil, which she says expanded her knowledge and understanding of different perspectives and influences the work she does every day.



Community Entrepreneurship

"During my time studying Community Entrepreneurship at UVM, I asked myself all the time: how can I make the greatest impact on society?" - Eric Grunfeld '19, Plugged In



About six months before graduating from UVM, Eric Grunfeld '19 launched his start-up company, Plugged In, whose mission is to put an end to distracted driving. Since then, he has been working on his technology, which hopes eventually to sell to automobile insurance companies to prevent distracted driving. Pictured here, Grunfeld is getting advice from his mentor and fellow UVM alum Christine Landon, with whom he was matched with via the UVM Mentoring Network. The network taps into a network of industry experts and matches them with those in need.



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