

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND APPLIED ECONOMICS



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2017

FROM THE CHAIR, DR. JANE KOLODINSKY



Another academic year has flown by! And, as is typical of CDAE, our students thrive... all 500+ undergraduate majors. You can read about some of our alums in this issue. We are proud that our graduates find meaningful employment after they leave UVM. Another highlight you can read in the wider UVM news is that Rachel Heath in the first UVM 3+2 UVM/Vermont Law School graduate. Rachel is receiving her B.S. in Community and International Development on May 21 from UVM and her Law Degree in the same month. Mariah Noth was bestowed the Larry Forcier college wide student achievement award because of her outstanding community based work. Kelly Hamshaw was honored by the Vermont Campus Compact as an outstanding service learning (engaged) educator. Our students and faculty don't only excel at UVM, they are recognized beyond our CDAE community. I, personally was humbled to be named a lifetime fellow of the American Council on Consumer Interests and a University of Vermont Scholar. Wow. But even for those who are not featured in a newsletter or receive official awards, CDAE consists of a community of students, faculty, staff, and community partners that look beyond the horizon to prepare for what is coming, not what has happened. Informed by the past, but ready for the future, members of CDAE take what is thrown at them, reach for the stars, and work like there is no tomorrow to make our communities, both near and far, better places to work, play, learn and thrive. Here's to another successful year in the department of Community Development and Applied Economics.

ALUMNA RECEIVES SOROS FELLOWSHIP FOR NEW AMERICANS

ESTEFANIA PUERTA, 2010 COMMUNITY AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT MAJOR, RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS SOROS FELLOWSHIP FOR NEW AMERICANS

Estefania Puerta has received \$90,000 from The Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans, the premier graduate school fellowship for immigrants and children of immigrants in the U.S. Of 1,775 applicants, Puerta was one of 30 to receive this prestigious fellowship -- a decision made on the applicants' potential to make significant contributions to U.S. society, culture, or their academic field.

Estefania received her Bachelor of Science from the Community Development and Applied Economics (CDAE) department at UVM in 2010, majoring in Community and International Development. A standout student, teaching assistant, and community member, she remained in Burlington after graduation to deepen her pursuit of art, establish performance art events in Burlington, and strengthen the already vibrant Burlington art scene.



Estefania Puerta, CID '10

Born in Colombia, Estefania immigrated with her mother to Boston at the age of two, trailing her (continued on page 7)

Contributors: Shea Caligari, Maria Gamache, Tate Kamish, Haley McMahon, Val Senanu

**The Community Development and Applied Economics Department
of the University of Vermont**

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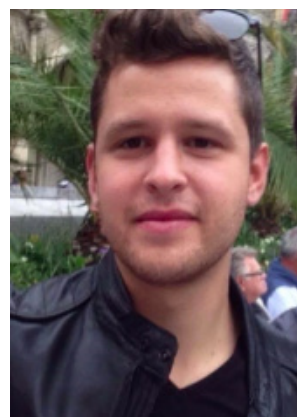
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The
**UNIVERSITY
of VERMONT**

ALUMNI IN THE COMMUNITY

"Currently, I am working at a small British based software startup in Boston which is building exciting software. On another exciting note, I am starting my own company in my free time centered around an application that improves job applicants' chances of receiving job offers based on smart Machine Learning algorithms. I am very excited to announce that I am actively searching for seed/Angel investment funding and am nearing a live Beta testing session with the application. This application was built due to my desire to help young recent graduates and current college students find jobs post graduation. CDAE helped foster a desire to start my own business, and gave me some of the tools to be successful!"



Ben Gelb, CENT '13



Lesley Bristol, CID '11

Lesley is a 2011 CDAE graduate (CID) studying for her MSPH in Health Policy & Management at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Her initial exposure to public health came from CDAE service-learning trips to St. Lucia and Honduras where she focused on HIV prevention and gender equality projects. Because of those experiences, she has had a long-standing interest in global health and will be working at Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI) as a global health intern this summer.

She also serves as an executive officer of the UNC Student Global Health Committee and is a board member of the UVM alumni-founded Clara Vista Foundation, a community development organization working in Costa Rica. She is interested in developing policy that will strengthen health systems and promote global health equity. The concepts she learned through CDAE such as economic theory, project management and systems-thinking remain highly relevant in her education and career.

"After graduating in 2012 with a Community and International Development major and spending a year in Burlington, I moved to NYC in 2014 and started work at Orbis International, a non-profit dedicated to helping prevent avoidable blindness worldwide. In my current role as Program Associate, I provide support to Country Directors around the globe, as well as help collate and present programmatic data to fundraising, marketing, and financial teams. I've also been increasingly working to manage projects in the organization's Latin America portfolio on telehealth systems and opportunities.

The coursework, professors, and classmates in the CDAE program were integral for me in achieving and continuing to succeed in my role. I consistently rely on the skills I learned at UVM in research and planning methods as well as visual communication techniques to create and support a dynamic, international team in the public health sphere. The focus on hands-on service learning in tandem with theoretical applications and study provided the background and experience to succeed in this multifaceted job.

Additionally, my work on my thesis for the Honors College under Dr. Kolodinsky in evaluating partnerships and community engagement within the St. Lucia SL course sparked an interest in collaborative design for equitable services. As a result of this and my current work, I will be pursuing a Master's Degree in Design + Social Innovation starting this fall. I truly believe my education at CDAE helped set me apart in my application and will only aid in my continued studies."



Alyssa Kropp CID '12

ALUMNI IN THE COMMUNITY

"Graduating from CDAE at UVM has really shaped my career thus far. I moved out to Colorado following my graduation in 2015 to do a one year AmeriCorps program. I did not know exactly what I wanted to do in my career, but I knew for certain that I wanted to build community – wherever that might be. After I finished my year of service, I was able to land a job at a non-profit in Denver. This was a great opportunity to deeply integrate into my community and directly work with the issues that it faced. I realized that one of the major issues our community faced was mental illness. I made it my goal to work to alleviate mental illness in order to build a stronger community. I now work at Sounds True Publishing promoting the transformational content that we produce. It is safe to say that I have landed my dream job, and it would not have been possible without the unique combination of community development and communications/business skills that CDAE provided me!"



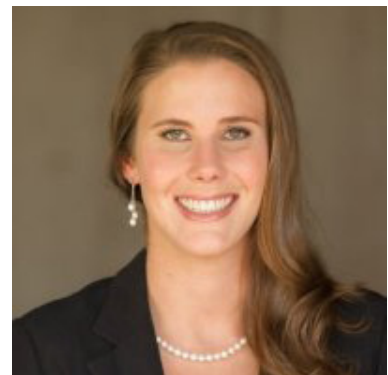
Hannah Lees CID '15



Caroline Caligari PCOM '15

"I am the Marketing Manager at Purely Elizabeth, an organic food company based out of Boulder, CO. Purely Elizabeth makes granola, oatmeal, muesli and breakfast cereals that are made with nutrient-rich ancient grains and superfood seeds and free of the bad stuff! I head all of our marketing initiatives, including digital marketing, social media, influencer outreach and events. I also do all of the graphic design for Purely Elizabeth, including marketing materials, merchandise, advertising and packaging. I celebrated my 5 year anniversary with Purely Elizabeth this past October. I have loved working for a small food brand and helping it grow into an emerging, nationally distributed company to watch. I am also proud to work for a brand that is a member of B Corp and 1% For The Planet -- holding the same values as many of the great brands that we studied during my time in CDAE."

After graduating with her Masters of Science in Community Development and Applied Economics, Chelsea moved back to California where she now works at Paramount Pictures in their Corporate Social Responsibility department. At Paramount, Chelsea identifies strategic partners and opportunities to build goodwill within the company and the community. She contributes to the development, implementation, evaluation, and promotion of communications, programs and events that align with company initiatives. Chelsea says that "the courses and lessons learned from CDAE are invaluable – the trans-disciplinary program, involvement with the community and local business leaders I was exposed to during my time in CDAE helped shape my vision of how a company can operate responsibly and what I wanted my career to be".



Chelsea Davidoff PCOM '08 MS '10

Chelsea has a long history with CDAE and received her undergraduate degree in Public Communications and then continued on to receive her Master of Science in Community Development and Applied Economics. While finishing her undergraduate degree and throughout her graduate studies, she also did sustainability work for Cabot Creamery Cooperative – a pioneer in applying context based sustainability - a method of sustainability management that expresses the performance relative to contextually relevant and social and environmental thresholds.

Chelsea contributes her successes in part to the CDAE program.

UVM PASSES—AND PUBLISHES—REAL FOOD CHALLENGE

CDAE, NFS, AND FOOD SYSTEMS STUDENTS AND FACULTY PUBLISH ON UVM'S REAL FOOD CHALLENGE

Food—in all its forms, from farms, to value added products—is inherent to Vermont's culture; so it is fitting that UVM is part of the Real Food Challenge national campaign that aims to “shift 20 percent of existing university food budgets in the U.S. (equivalent to approximately \$1 billion) from conventional agricultural products to local, ecologically sound, fair, and humane products by 2020.”

UVM was the fifth school to sign onto the Real Food Challenge, and they met it. Three years ahead of schedule. Their new goal is 25 percent by 2020.

It's been an ongoing push, starting in 2008 and including students in the Real Food Challenge network, dining directors, financial and budget managers, farmers, and other campus stakeholders. Over time they've secured \$60 million worth of pledges to purchase more local, fair, sustainable, and humane food. 42 schools are on board and students at 236 others are tracking food purchases using the Real Food Calculator, a tool provided by the Real Food Challenge network.



UVM Met and Expanded its 20% Real Food Challenge Goal to 25% by 2020

An attractive public-facing campaign can often provide fodder for academics working behind the scenes collecting data, surveying stakeholders, and running statistical binary logistic models to determine which student characteristics affect or predict one's willingness to pay for this new “real” designation on campus food.

A paper published in the *Journal of Agricultural Human Values*—a high-impact food systems journal—led by Sodexo Food Systems Fellow Jennifer Porter and supported in authorship by CDAE faculty David Conner and Chair Jane Koldinsky as well as Nutrition and Food Systems professor Amy Trubek found that student characteristics and attitudes significantly influence their willingness to pay. Specifically, gender, residency, college, and attitudes about price and origin of food are significant predictors.

In a quintessential example of service learning in CDAE, the researchers used data collected in CDAE 250: Applied Research Methods taught by David Conner to run their logistic models in order to produce their findings.

“Values are often considered to be enduring, but college can be a “coming-of-age” time in students' lives when they begin to question their values and beliefs.” The authors write. “As such, universities may be particularly effective places to influence students' values surrounding food. Our results indicate that students who highly value the price of food are less likely to prefer “real” food. It may be quite difficult to change the importance of price in students' decision making, given constrained budgets. Therefore, it may be more realistic to influence the importance of the origin of food in students' decision-making processes.”

“Seeing this article published makes me happy in many ways,” notes David Conner, CDAE faculty member. “First, it is a great culmination of the graduate student mentoring process. Second, it utilizes data gathered by a service-learning class. Finally, it helps inform an important and highly visible food systems development effort on campus.”

FACULTY PROFILE: JONATHAN LEONARD

By: Haley McMahon, PCOM '18

Dr. Jonathan Leonard is a man who makes conversation natural. The cool and relaxed cadence of his voice is reminiscent of Garrison Keillor, narrating the listener through a tale that has no urgency, but is nonetheless fascinating.

Dr. Leonard has experienced a great amount over the course of his life, and while he will be ending his more-than-30 year tenure at UVM this spring, his mark on the student body will not be forgotten. Beginning his career here as a grad student in zoology in 1980, he embarked on an adventure; a theme that continues throughout his life. He began his trip to UVM on a bicycle in San Francisco. From San Francisco, Leonard biked his way up the west coast, passing through Vancouver, up to the panhandle of Alaska, and all the way down to Alberta where he hopped on a train to Montreal. From Montreal, he hopped back on his bike and pedaled south to UVM. Dr. Leonard immediately fell in love with Vermont, where he ultimately met his wife and put down roots.



Dr. Leonard's unique approach to life doesn't stop there. His whole life story is sprinkled with adventure and zest for life. The man has easily and naturally taken the idea of Carpe Diem completely to heart. A perfect example is the way in which he began what he would never have predicted to be a lifelong career in educating the next generation. Way back as an undergraduate at Drew University he worked as an observatory assistant. Because of his conviction to always go the extra mile and his access to the keys as well as projectors, Dr. Leonard would take school groups and give them an extra talk about science before they went into the observatory—completely of his own volition. After receiving his Master of Science in Zoology at UVM, Dr. Leonard picked up a gig at a stained glass studio—he has a piece of his work in the shape of Vermont hanging on the window of his corner office in Morrill Hall. His wife had gotten a job at nearby St. Michael's college, so he stuck around and eventually he landed a job at the University as the first coordinator of the personal computer lab. As time moved, so did Leonard, into a full time lecturer, teaching computer classes and public speaking for CALS. Along the way, he worked toward—and received—his PhD in forest entomology. Turns out, he accidentally happened across an incredibly rare species of caterpillar that he accidentally discovered on Camel's Hump because “you have to be at the right place at the right time, which is: above 3,000 ft elevation in July either for a 15 minute window at dusk or at dawn on even numbered years only.” Wow, talk about quite the PhD thesis. So as to why Leonard didn't teach science classes? “There were already entomology professors here,” he mellowly shrugs and smiles.

Dr. Leonard went on to teach other CALS and CDAE classes, but his latest course, “Propaganda, Media Ownership, and Citizen Responsibility,” is one of his favorites. Another one of his favorites was a class that he taught about two decade ago called “Limits to Growth,” which he still finds relevant today due to its discussion about the a book by the same title and the student's ability to “contact via interview and email with some of the authors of the book as well as an economist Julian Simon” who basically had the opposite opinion to the authors of the book. Leonard's favorite part about being a professor? Keeping in touch with his students. When describing this, he quickly pulled out a photo from a few weeks ago when he met up with a student that he had taught 30 years ago.

CDAE is an especially unique department, and Dr. Leonard has been incredibly proud to work with such a diverse and intelligent group of individuals. He has enjoyed the wide range of ideas, philosophies, political leanings that all culminate around a central goal of social justice and responsibility. One thing he loves most is the “huge diversity of expertise” among faculty and that “everyone gets along, which is often not the case in other departments.” Leonard believes part of the reason for this is that everyone in CDAE agrees upon “the ecological, social justice, economic prosperity model of what sustainability is all about.”

Is he excited about retiring after all these years? Yes. What will he do with his free time? Get outdoors. He plans to hike and enjoy nature as well as play more music. He currently plays piano, guitar, bouzouki, mandolin, and others that he listed off too quickly to keep track of. Occasionally he plays gigs, and hopes to do more of that with his new free time. He will miss teaching; however he is quick to cited one of the perks of being Emeritus: the ability to still use the facilities on campus. Additionally, he says he has hopes to come back next spring to teach just one section of Propaganda, Media Ownership, and Citizen Responsibility. So don't worry, although he is retiring, this won't be the last semester we see Dr. Leonard around campus. Maybe he'll even bike to class.

CDAE AROUND THE WORLD: NED MCMAHON'S WORK WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

By: Tate Kamish, PCOM '17



"Getting out of your comfort zone is a really important part of human existence," suggests CDAE Research Associate Professor, Ned McMahon; in fact it is a big part of why he pursued international relations in the first place.

McMahon is involved in several international development organizations and councils, including the US Agency for National Development, the United Nations Development Program, and the Carter Center. This spring, he traveled to Geneva, Switzerland for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) – a mechanism used by the Human Rights Council of the UN. At this meeting, which takes place every four years, all countries have the opportunity to make recommendations to other countries on how to improve their human rights.

McMahon studies what types of suggestions are made, how strong they are, and if they are acted on, concluding that "there is reason to be optimistic." While there are no formal enforcements of policies, countries tend to take action simply through peer pressure.

"The data generated suggest that that almost half of all recommendations studied have triggered some type of action within 2 ½ years of acceptance." McMahon writes of this year's Review. "The regional group that was most successful has been the Eastern European group, while Asia has proved to be the laggard. The issues with the highest percentage of implementation were recommendations related to HIV-Aids treatment, human trafficking, and people with disabilities. By contrast, the highest percentages of non-implementation within categories were of recommendations pertaining to the freedom of movement, right to land, and the death penalty."

In addition to his passion for human rights, McMahon works to spread democracy worldwide – starting in Vermont. As a member of the Board of Directors on the Vermont Council of World Affairs, McMahon helped to facilitate a recent visit from Parliamentary members of Tajikistan – a former Soviet country with no history of democracy.

"Long-term stability comes best from governments that have the support of the people," explains McMahon. While he does not want to tell people what is right for them in terms of how they govern, with the help of the US State Department, he works to "share experiences and ideas from different contexts about how democratic institutions function" to promote more stable governments internationally.

McMahon's work has spanned the globe and his insights are unique, especially at UVM. He is constantly traveling the world to observe and research; he brings this perspective into the classroom and his research in CDAE and students value his experience. It's not at every university that your instructor met with the parliamentary leaders of a former soviet country in Vermont in the same semester that they travel to Geneva, Switzerland to continue to understand UPR recommendations' implementation. McMahon feels his work has been substantial, "I could die tomorrow and I'd feel like my life has meant something."

SUPPORT CDAE

The Community Development and Applied Economics Department engages our high-achieving students with Vermont communities and beyond. Your donation will help the Department continue to build partnerships and stronger communities for all of us. Annual gifts from alumni and friends at all levels do make a difference. Please consider supporting the Department with a donation of any size. Gifts may be made online at the Development Office's secure website:

alumni.uvm.edu/giving

Please specify CDAE in the "Other" category.

CHAIR JANE KOLODINSKY APPOINTED UNIVERSITY SCHOLAR AND DISTINGUISHED FELLOW OF THE AMERICAN COUNCIL ON CONSUMER INTERESTS



The 2017-18 University Scholars (l to r) Professors Kelly Rohan (CAS), Jane Kolodinsky (CALS), Jianke Yang (CEMS), with UVM President Tom Sullivan (left) and Graduate College Dean Cindy Forehand (right)

Professor and Chair of CDAE, Jane Kolodinsky, has been named a 2017-2018 University Scholar. The University Scholars program recognizes distinguished UVM faculty members for sustained excellence in research, creative, and scholarly activities. The Scholars are selected by a faculty panel based upon nominations submitted by UVM colleagues.

The honor of carrying the University Scholar recognition requires that Prof. Kolodinsky give a campus-wide lecture in the 2017-2018 academic year.

Jane's accomplishments are notable and substantial not only at the university level, but the national and international levels as well. She has received 66 grants totaling \$4 million in funding. Her book chapters and articles exceed 100 and her citation record is strong in her field. As a consumer economist, her research focus has been on the consumption side of the marketplace; the foundation of which is that consumers are as important as producers, in fact without consumers there are no producers to speak of. More specifically she has focused on the economics of information, citizen voice, obesity and lifestyle, and controversial food system policy issues including the labeling of foods produced using genetic engineering and taxing sugar sweetened beverages.

In accepting this honor, Prof. Kolodinsky shared quotes that have shaped her as a researcher ranging from JFK in the 1960's, to Bernie Sanders in the 1980's to Mitch McConnell's "Nevertheless, she persisted" spoken earlier this year in response to Sen. Elizabeth Warren. In summary of her noted quotes, Kolodinsky noted that she has always tried to focus her research agenda on "measuring what matters."

Additionally, Kolodinsky was named the 2017 Distinguished Fellow of the American Council on Consumer Interests, the leading academic organization in the United States in the field of consumer economics specifically focused on the well being of consumers.

Jane is the Director of the Center for Rural Studies and the Food Systems Research Collaborative at the University of Vermont and has served as a Fulbright senior research fellow in Germany.

Prof. Kolodinsky is joined by the two other 2017-2018 University Scholars, Kelly Rohan of the College of Arts and Sciences and Jianke Yang of the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences.

CDAE BY THE NUMBERS

The **Community Development and Applied Economics Department (CDAE)** is part of the **College of Agriculture and Life Sciences** at the **University of Vermont**. CDAE supports sustainable local, regional, and international communities through transdisciplinary research, education, and outreach that serve the public interest.

Community Development and Applied Economics 2017 Graduate Student Enrollment

MS in CDAE and MPA: 36

Community Development and Applied Economics 2017 Undergraduate Student Enrollment

Majors: 526

Public Communication: 281

Community Entrepreneurship: 139

Community International Development: 105

Minors: 321

Fiscal Year 2016:

Sponsored Grant Funding: \$1.2 million

THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

CDAE PARTNERS WITH VERMONT HIGH SCHOOLS TO EMPOWER STUDENTS

by: Maria Gamache

The University of Vermont is collaborating with high schools around the state to empower students to become leaders within their community.

About a year ago Dr. Kenneth Hood, former Associate Dean of the College of Education, approached the chair of Community Development and Applied Economics (CDAE), Dr. Jane Kolodinsky, with a proposal.

"...[He] said 'I've looked at what CDAE does and you're the right person for this,'" recalls Dr. Kolodinsky. The proposal was to pilot proficiency based learning curricula in several high schools around the state of Vermont.

Keystones of the department are the project based learning courses integrated into the curriculum. Students gain hands on experience both abroad and at home in fields like entrepreneurship, public communication and community development. Real-time projects with established community based organizations allow for students to hone their skills and apply theories, through which their confidence may grow.

In July of 2013 the Vermont Legislature passed Act 77. Known as Flexible Pathways the policy allows high school students to earn credits toward graduation through proficiency-based learning criteria. In other words, high school students who do not excel in the typical classroom setting have the opportunity to satisfy graduation requirements in alternative settings.

Five high schools from around the state have partnered with the University. Students will produce a community profile booklet, earn college credit through a hybrid public speaking course taught by Professor Thomas DeSisto and, work with a community-based organization to produce a project that will be presented at a final summit.

Rather than see what a community may be lacking, the curriculum presents students with a paradigm shift: what assets does the community already have? How can they be built upon?

Hannah Harrington is one of five graduate students involved with the program's design and implementation. Each graduate student is assigned a high school and remains involved over the course of the year acting as mentors and liaisons between students and community partners.

One learning objective for students is understanding how to find meaning through community assets by asking the right questions.

"Outside of business-brings-jobs, what else does [business] do? And what are some ideas of natural capital?" Poses Harrington. "We are so lucky to live in a place that has hiking trails and biking trails and what does that mean? These are resources for the community but what do they do for the people that live there? And how are they an opportunity for us to address an issue?"

There is a mentality among many young Vermonters that the town they grew up in is not capable of sustaining them past high school or even college. Harrington says students are beginning to see things differently.

"It's been really great to hear students saying 'Oh, I never realized that!' or 'I never thought about it that way!'" says Harrington. "Looking at your community as something that can be improved upon and, as an exciting opportunity for you to stay and improve, was something that people didn't really think of."

The program will be implemented again next year. Eventually, it will become sustainable within the high schools and graduate student involvement will no longer be incorporated. Even further out the department hopes to have an international component available to Vermont high school students.

"...The students will understand the value of data-driven decision making, share that with community members who might then value what the students are doing and see high schools as an anchor institution," says Dr. Kolodinsky, "everybody wins."

This project was made possible by the generous support of Casella Waste Systems, Inc and the Vermont Center for International Partnerships.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: CONNECTING CLASSROOMS WITH COMMUNITIES: HOW CDAE IS CREATING REAL CHANGE GLOBALLY AND LOCALLY

"How do we help people make the change they want to see in their community?" poses CDAE Lecturer Thomas DeSisto.

He continues, "One of the problems with high schools or universities is the fact that we're all in different departments and that everything is topically focused."

DeSisto teaches courses on computer literacy, research methods, and sustainable development, enabling students to create their own solutions to "real world" problems – specifically through service learning.

CDAE students are encouraged to look at situations from a "broader, more holistic" perspective, and act on it. DeSisto reflects that, as an undergrad, he was always frustrated by how professors presented problem after problem, offering few – if any – solutions.



Photo: Shea Caligari

DeSisto's flagship service learning partnership with the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Education in St. Lucia provides students with the opportunity to work with community members in the small island state to create the change they want to see.

Shelley Nhan, a senior Public Communications major, reflects on her time in St. Lucia, "I loved learning about the St. Lucian culture and working with the students at the Rivere Doree school." She recommends this course to anyone looking to "make a difference and gain hands-on experience through CDAE."

DeSisto has been leading the service-learning trip every January since 2005, and finds it rewarding to see students "realize what they can do with what they already know." DeSisto teaches courses on computer literacy, research methods, and sustainable development, enabling students to create their own solutions to "real world" problems – specifically through service learning.



Photo: Molly O'Shea

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Shelley Nhan, pictured above, third from left, a senior Public Communications major, reflects on her time in St. Lucia, "I loved learning about the St. Lucian culture and working with the students at the Rivere Doree school." She recommends this course to anyone looking to "make a difference and gain hands-on experience through CDAE."

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To replicate these efforts in Burlington, DeSisto developed a course called "Local Community Initiatives" in which students work with low-income entrepreneurs in the North End to help improve and expand their businesses. Similarly, Kelly Hamshaw teaches a separate section of the course focused on rural Vermont, specifically the town of Bristol.

Although DeSisto finds the learning, teaching, and community-building opportunities in CDAE rewarding, he considers working with UVM students to be a bittersweet experience: "The best and worst part about teaching at UVM is you meet all these great people and they go off and do all these great things. You are really excited for them, but you miss them."

ALUMNA RECEIVES SOROS FELLOWSHIP FOR NEW AMERICANS, CONT.

father, who had had come to the U.S. the year before. Finally reunited, Estefania's parents set out to pursue a future in which she could be the first in the family to graduate from college and have a better life.

It was during high school that Estefania discovered her love of art and literature. Art gave Estefania a new world to discover and cultivate. She went to the art museums in Boston and learned about art history, including the lack of inclusion and representation of women artists from different cultural backgrounds.

After high school, Estefania pursued a degree in community and international development at the University of Vermont. Not only did she get hands-on experience working with vulnerable populations, but she was also able to take art classes and cultivate her love of creative expression. As fruitful as this time was, Estefania was still unable to pursue certain endeavors due to her immigration status. She is grateful for the professors who pushed her to improve on her work and keep pursuing her dream.

Since graduating from college, Estefania has become a U.S. citizen. With the newly found privilege of citizenship, she is committed to ensuring others are given the same encouragement and support she was given while living in the shadows. Estefania has finally been able to follow her dream of being an artist. She is currently pursuing her MFA in painting and printmaking at the Yale University School of Art.



She hopes to deepen her critical approach to her art practice and create space for more immigrant Latina artists in the art world.

MARIAH NOTH AWARDED COLLEGE-WIDE LAWRENCE K. FORCIER OUTSTANDING SENIOR AWARD

"To say that she Mariah has demonstrated a positive presence on campus and in the local community by exhibiting a record of achievement and leadership, which is very easy to document, in her classroom experiences, her volunteer work, and her paid employment is an understatement," says CDAE Chair Jane Kolodinsky of Mariah Noth, CID '17 and this year's recipient of the College of Agriculture and Life Science's Lawrence K Forceir Outstanding Senior Award.



Mariah Noth receiving the CDAE Engaged Scholar award from CDAE Chair Jane Kolodinsky.

Embodying the CALS mission and goals of establishing the basis for its students to hold a lifelong commitment to learning, discovery, truth, community service, and excellence, the Forcier award is given each year to a top senior in the College who exemplifies these pursuits.

A native Vermonter, Mariah has excelled at providing quality research and work to serve her community. Says Emmet Mossley, Good Food Truck Manager, the subject of Mariah's Honors College thesis: "The thing that's impressed me most about Mariah (other than her incredibly positive attitude) is the way that she crafted her research to be useful to the [Good Food Truck] program. In that way she's become a true collaborator."

Mariah is as humble as she is prolific with her academic, professional, and service work. She was also awarded CDAE departmental awards for being within the top ten percent of senior CDAE students based on GPA as well as the Engaged Scholar Award for translating her high level of academic achievement into meaningful contributions to "real world" community development.

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