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Five Vermont Tech students vied for the national prize at the Cornell Cup, a college-level, systems engineering competition. Pictured: Thomas “TJ” Manton.
Year in Review

I just completed my first full academic year as president of Vermont Tech, and what a year it’s been. This is an institution on the move, with exciting developments on many, many fronts. Here, I highlight a few.

We began the year with a collaborative strategic planning process. Led by Business Professor Greg Hughes, the college hosted listening events around the state — drawing more than 500 people — to gain perspective on the challenges and opportunities facing the state and the region, and the college’s role in meeting those needs. The resulting plan sets eight strategic directions to guide the college over the next five years.

Our academic programs are also flourishing. We have expanded our presence in southern Vermont, increasing offerings in Bennington and Brattleboro, and just started a Professional Pilot Technology Program. We also launched the Institute of Applied Agriculture, which will make us the leading institution of higher education in northern New England for applied agriculture and food systems.

No summary of the year would be complete without mentioning Hurricane Irene — which brought the worst flooding the state has seen in 83 years. The college was front-and-center in response. We opened a shelter the first night of the storm, which remained operational for three months. Students were amazing: forming a community service club to help residents deal with the storm’s aftermath, tending to flood victims in area clinics, and afterwards, hosting a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) certification program.

There’s so much underway at Vermont Tech, as evidenced by this newsletter. As we ramp up our external relations you can look for more good news in the coming months.

President Conroy in the News

This spring brought honors and accolades to Vermont Technical College President Philip A. Conroy, Jr. In April, his alma mater, Bridgewater State University in Massachusetts, singled Conroy out for the Nicholas P. Tillinghast Award for Achievement in the Field of Education. The Tillinghast Award is bestowed annually on a “graduate who has demonstrated the qualities of outstanding leadership, excellence in performance and personal achievement in the field of public education at the state, regional, or national level.”

In May, Vermont Business Magazine published an article Conroy authored, “Applied Learning and the New Economy.” In the piece, President Conroy articulates the need for and benefit of Vermont Tech’s educational model:

“Applied learning involves the actual integration of theory and practice, the opportunity to incorporate both knowledge and skills.”
Vermont Tech Team Finalist in Cornell Cup

A team of five Vermont Tech students competed this spring in the finals of the inaugural Cornell Cup, USA, a college-level systems engineering competition, created to empower students to become inventors of the newest innovative applications of embedded technology. Only 24 teams were selected as finalists from colleges and universities nationwide, including MIT, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of California at Berkeley, and Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

“The Cornell Cup was an outstanding opportunity — both for these students and for Vermont Tech — to compete in engineering on a national level,” said team advisor Lauri Sybel, Vermont Tech’s director of career services. “As finalists, they were able to spread the word about Vermont Tech while enhancing their resumes and demonstrating their professional design skills.”

The Vermont Tech team, which called itself the "Knights of the Workbench,” was made up of four second-year students: team leader and Electromechanical Engineering major Ben Holleran, and Computer Engineering majors Charles Hathaway, Mike Collins, and Forest Immel, as well as first-year student Thomas Manton, an Electromechanical Engineering major.

The Knights of the Workbench stood out in the competition as the only team that developed its concept into a functional model — a sophisticated device to combat binge drinking and drunk driving: a fully automated drink-mixing machine that monitors the blood alcohol content using an RFID card reader to scan the magnetic strip on the back of a patron’s license. Comparing a customer’s height and weight to a relational database, the computer enters limits on how much alcohol a customer can legally consume. Once that limit is reached, the computer automatically switches to a soft-drink only menu.

“Knights of the Workbench” Ben Holleran, Forest Immel, Thomas Manton. Not pictured: Charles Hathaway and Mike Collins.

“As finalists, they were able to spread the word about Vermont Tech while enhancing their resumes and demonstrating their professional design skills.”

LAURI SYBEL, Vermont Tech’s director of career services
Professional Pilot Technology Program Takes Flight

A new Professional Pilot Technology Program will enroll more than a dozen students this fall at Vermont Tech. The program will provide graduates with a comprehensive understanding of the sciences and technologies involved in aviation and the communication skills necessary to perform and compete in the aviation industry in addition to comprehensive flight training.

Graduates will hold multiple Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) pilot certificates and ratings and will be well prepared for a wide range of careers in aviation, including as professional pilots. Douglas Smith, a 30-year career airline pilot, is heading this exciting new venture.

Center for Sustainable Practices Welcomes First Fellows

A new fellowship program in the Center for Sustainable Practices gives Vermont Tech alumni the opportunity to work for the college on strategic and special initiatives. The first fellows are Michelle Girouard ’05 and ’11, who earned an associates degree in Landscape Development and Ornamental Horticulture and then went on to earn a bachelor’s in Sustainable Design and Technology, and Dan Aubin ’11, who earned two bachelors degrees during his four years at Vermont Tech in Architectural Engineering Technology and Sustainable Design and Technology.

Roger Allbee Named Senior Scholar in Residence

Former-Vermont Secretary of Agriculture, Food, and Markets Roger Allbee has been appointed consultant and advisor to the President and the College. Allbee will assist Vermont Tech in addressing the technical and applied knowledge skills important to students interested in agriculture and related food systems.
For Google employee Jeremy Spencer ’06, an officer in the Vermont National Guard, the road to Silicon Valley was more rollercoaster ride than Sunday drive. Between 2004 and 2010, Spencer served three tours of duty: in Iraq, Louisiana (Hurricane Katrina relief), and Afghanistan. Along the way, he managed to graduate from Vermont Tech and earn an industrial engineering degree from East Carolina University.

“In 2011, I decided to take some time to travel, so I headed across country to California,” said the Fayston, VT native. “A friend of a friend introduced me to a program manager at Google who was hiring test drivers for cars using artificial intelligence software.” Spencer so impressed the program manager that he was hired on the spot.

Now, Spencer spends his days in the passenger seat of a Toyota Prius that drives itself. “Driving is far more complex than most people realize,” says Spencer. “When we are driving down the road, we make hundreds of unconscious decisions. My job is to act as the rational, average driver, giving feedback about the car’s behavior, how it takes turns, how it accelerates and brakes. The engineers and programmers are geniuses at taking the feedback and writing it into programs that guide the cars.”

Baby You Can’t Drive My Car

Jeremy Spencer '06 with a Google self-driving car. Spencer now works with Google engineers to test and improve self-driving technology.
Vermont Tech Takes the Lead in Simulation-Based Learning

Vermont Tech’s leadership in simulation-based learning for nursing students was recognized at the International Human Patient Simulation Network (HPSN) conference in Tampa, FL, at the end of February. The College was honored for being at the forefront of health care simulation, which allows nursing students, who practice in small rural communities across the state, to experience life-like medical situations.

In 2011, Vermont Tech opened simulation labs in Williston, Randolph, and Brattleboro, all within a month. This accomplishment, along with an outstanding video on the simulation program and the launch of a newsletter, were instrumental in HPSN’s decision to honor the nursing program.

Michelle Stearns, Site Director for the Fanny Allen/Williston campus, and Clifford LaPlante, Site Director for the Thompson/Brattleboro campus, accepted the award and made a presentation: “A SIM Lab of Your Own: Lessons Learned at One Technical College in Setting Up SIM Labs at Six Sites.”

“Simulation technology allows us to use very high-tech, life-like mannequins designed to do just about everything a real person can do, including breathe, talk, and give birth,” said LaPlante. “In our labs, we can train nursing students to handle just about any situation.”

Student News

SPOTLIGHT: Chad Weber

Vermont Tech Student Takes First Place in Cyber Quests and Sans Competitions

Chad Weber, a Software Engineering major, soared to first place in two national computer skills competitions this year. In September, Weber bested more than 500 competitors for the top spot at Cyber Quests III, a national online competition of information security disciplines. As the winner, he received a trip to the SANS 2012 NetWars, sponsored by The SANS (SysAdmin, Audit, Network, Security) Institute, founding sponsor of Cyber Quests.

SANS 2012 NetWars presented a hacking contest: a computer and network security challenge designed to represent real-world security issues, their flaws, and resolutions. Each player followed an independent path based on individual problem solving skills, technical skills, aptitude, and creativity. The challenge was played in a fun but safe environment using everyday technology. Again, Weber took first place.

“It’s all like a big puzzle to me,” said Weber, a North Bennington, VT native, who worked as a technical support specialist before attending Vermont Tech. “You really challenge yourself and you learn what you need to learn.”

Student Selected for Prestigious German Exchange Program

Stephanie Bodensieck, a junior on track to earn degrees in Mechanical Engineering Technology and Sustainable Design and Technology, has been selected to participate in the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals (CBYX), a yearlong, federally funded fellowship for study and work in Germany.

Bodensieck was tapped to be one of 75 participants (among more than 500 applicants) for this program.

Bodensieck will attend a two-month intensive German language course, study at a German university or professional school for four months, and complete a five-month internship with a German company. Participants come from nearly every career field from all over the United States.

Since 1984, more than 1,600 Americans have participated in the CBYX program. Including Bodensieck, 11 Vermont Tech students have participated in the CBYX program, and Vermont Tech has welcomed 15 German students to its campus as part of the exchange.
What to do with the millions — even billions — of cups, shampoo bottles, and other plastics that most often end up in the trash? Tyler McNaney, a freshman from Milton, VT, has invented the answer. The Filabot Reclaimer is a desktop device that grinds up and melts those plastic throw-aways, turning them into spools of filament that can be used with desktop 3-D printers. The 3-D printers can then make a wide range of plastic parts, from cups to door-knobs.

McNaney, a Mechanical Engineering major, has already raised more than $10,000 for the Filabot Reclaimer on the entrepreneurial website Kickstarter, a funding platform for creative upstarts. He was featured on MSNBC News in January and named to the list, “Most Successful Entrepreneurs of the Next Ten Years,” by the World Future Society (WFS). The WFS will feature McNaney’s work at World Future 2012, the organization’s conference that takes place this summer in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. The conference brings together world-renowned researchers, up-and-coming thought leaders, innovators, and trendsetters who will focus on a wide range of foresight techniques and global trends that will influence the future.

“I hit the ground running with the Filabot idea at the end of last year,” explains McNaney, who expects the Filabot Reclaimer will retail for approximately $800. “I think it’s going to be something really, really big. It allows anyone to make something useful with plastic. The possibilities for what 3-D printers can make are endless.”

### Honor Roll of Donors

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### Vermont Tech Athletics Hall of Fame

Vermont Tech is establishing a new Athletics Hall of Fame to recognize athletes, coaches, administrators, and contributors for their commitment, sacrifice, and dedication. Nominees must exemplify the highest standards of sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and character. All candidates will be judged on their significant and/or long-term contributions to Vermont Tech athletics.

### Nomination Procedures

Any graduate, staff member, or friend of the college may make nominations. Self-nominations are not allowed, although an individual may nominate a team of which s/he was a member. Nominations are due by August 31.

All entries must be submitted to the Athletics Department. The following materials are required:

- A letter of recommendation and other letters of support from individuals who can validate or substantiate related information.
- Supporting materials, such as newspaper articles, certificates, historical records, letters, film footage, etc.

Submission forms can be found online at www.vtc.edu/athletics.

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### Student Newsletter: Student News

**Students First in Regional ASHRAE Design Competition**

A team of Vermont Tech Architectural Engineering Technology seniors was awarded first place in the region as part of a 2011 national student competition for the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE).

Team members were Catherine Dount of Boulder, CO, and Dustin Cressman and Conor McManus of Randolph, VT. Their work was supervised by Mark Vincello, PE, of WV Engineering Associates of Keene, NH, and Professor Scott A. Sabol, PE.

The students competed in the “system design” category, investigating heating and cooling loads, air exchange requirements, and other energy and human comfort issues for the renovation and renewal design of the Drake Well Museum in Titusville, PA. Their design focused on energy efficiency and sustainable engineering concepts.

**ASHRAE Design Competition**

Their design focused on renewal design of the Drake Well Museum and cooling loads, air exchange requirements, and global trends that will influence the future.

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### Vermont Tech Athletics Hall of Fame

Vermont Tech bids farewell to John Dyer, who served as Head Basketball Coach for nine seasons. Dyer, who left the college this spring to pursue his interest in drag-racing, led the men’s basketball team to 155 wins, five bids to the uSCAA (united onboats, led the men’s basketball team to

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In Memoriam

Sherrard Fernstrom, AF ’43, passed away on April 21, 2011 in Mayo Health Care in Northfield. He was born Oct. 28, 1924 in Randolph, the son of Leonard D. and Nellie E. (Angell) Fernstrom of East Brookfield. He attended grammar school with his twin brother, Durward, in a one room schoolhouse in East Brookfield taught by their mother, Williamstown High School, and then the Vermont Agricultural School (now known as Vermont Technical College). He served with the 5th Marine Division during the 38th Annual Treaty for World War II for three years, including combat in Korea.

In 1941, he married Mary Dawn of Williamstown. Following their marriage, they made their first home in Williamstown, where they raised four sons as he worked as a carpenter and then as superintendent at Norridgewock for Consolidated Construction. He lived in Exees Junction, where he eventually operated the Fernstrom Construction Company with his wife and sons until 1989. He enjoyed playing bridge, bowling, hiking, grilling, and cross country skiing and was very active in the Masons.

Carl Fuller, AF ’43, died November 20, 2010 at Bennington Health and Rehabilitation Center. He was born in Windsor December 23, 1924, the son of Carl and Fannie (Duck) Fuller Sr. Mr. Fuller married the former Vera Barr in Woodstock October 2, 1945. He was a lifelong dairy farmer, owning and operating Twin Brooks Farm in West Shokan for many years, and was known for his dairy farming accomplishments. He was a member and served on the boards of various farm organizations and the Farm Bureau. He enjoyed restoring and collecting antique tractors, antique gas engines, farm tools, and lanterns, as well as snowmobiling and traveling.

George Dodge, AF ’44, died peacefully February 14, at Woodridge Nursing Home in Berlin. Born December 22, 1925 at the Bates City Hospi- tal, he was the son of Harvey J. and Clara E. (Hawes) Dodge. He grew up in Berlin, where he attended elementary school and graduated from Spaulding High School in Berlin in 1943. He went on to earn an agricultural degree from Vermont Technical College in 1944. After his education, George worked with his father for two years on the family dairy farm on Scott Hill Road before buying it in 1946. He farmed on his own until 1976 when he transferred it to his sons and daughter-in-law, Debra and Dave South in Darby. Over the years, he was known for having the best Jersey herd in the area, both for its production and quality of milk. In 1985, George rented the farm to Gordon Birch and Son, and started the business that became the Vermont Valley Milk brand, now known as the University of New Hampshire – Manchester. He later served as the Director of the Extension Division for Haverhill College, serving as the Chairman of the Animal Science Department for the state schools. He then worked extensively for the Vermont and United States Agriculture departments.

Ronald Perron, HT ’61, passed away on May 20, 2012 at the age of 75 in Haverhill. Born in Derry, NH on September 6, 1937, he was the son of Almy (Sharkey) Perron and the late Rene Perron. Mr. Perron worked for the Connecticut Highway Department for 35 years and was a licensed real estate broker and a landlord. He was an original member of the Haddam Nook Volunteer Fire Department and a member of the Haddam Congregational Church. Mr. Perron traveled extensively and was a great sports enthusiast and an avid hunter. He loved visiting with people, sharing stories, and telling jokes.

Richard Walker, HT ’61, died December 3, 2010 after a courageous 12-year battle with Multiple Myeloma. He was the son of Dr. David A. and Lucy Walker and was born March 29, 1940 in Manchester, VT. Richard graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.

Steiner served as a member of the School Board, and as Clerk of the School Board through the 1970s. He was a Trustee of the Eastern States Exposition and served as a judge at the Martha’s Vineyard Agricultural Fair for twenty-five years. He is a lifelong member of the Southport, Conn. volunteer fire department and was an avid collector of both American Flyer Train and milk bottles. Locally, Steiner was active in the Friends of the hike and in the Chamber of Commerce. He was a member of the Shaker Village Association, Deer Hill Learning Institute, the Leather Helms Club and was a member of the Kentuck Conservation Commission. A native New Englander, Bob was raised in Southport, Conn. and had fond memories of his work at Nyalas Farm as a young child. Steiner returned to the University of Connecticut in 1972, where he served as the trainer of the UCONN Husky Dog. Steiner received his Master’s Degree in Education from the University of Rhode Island. Steiner spent a career working in the field of education. He began by teaching high school in Moravia, Conn., served as an Agricultural Editor at the University of Rhode Island, in New Hampshire he worked for the University of New Hampshire Extension Service, providing milk to the Route 660 dairy in South Berwick. Over the years, he was known for having the best Jersey herd in the area, both for its production and quality of milk. In 1985, George rented the farm to Gordon Birch and Son, and started the business that became the Vermont Valley Milk brand, now known as the University of New Hampshire – Manchester. He later served as the Director of the Extension Division for Haverhill College, serving as the Chairman of the Animal Science Department for the state schools. He then worked extensively for the Vermont and United States Agriculture departments.

Thomas Leach, EM ’60, passed away on March 13, 2011 at Fletcher Allen Health Care. He was born March 23, 1940 in Bennington, VT. He graduated from South Burlington High School in 1958. Tom was very active in the Masons. He was a member of the Agricultural Fair Association; Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Flyer Trains and milk bottles. Locally, Steiner was a member of the Hooksett Conservation Commission.

Gary Steiner, EM ’62, passed away on May 2, 2012 in his home in Haddam Neck, Conn. He was the son of Ruth and Gilbert Steiner. He served as a Captain in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and was a member of the Counterintelligence Corps in Vietnam and Diego Garcia from 1969 to 1972. Gary graduated from South Royalton High School in 1962. He was a Vietnam veteran proud of his service in the Navy Seabees in Vietnam and Diego Garcia from 1969 to 1972. He was a dedicated volunteer for the Sharon Fire Department for over 30 years. Gary enjoyed crossword puzzles, hunting, and woodworking. He was always working on a building project; whether it was a large project like his home, hunting camp, and woodshop or small gifts like cutting boards, picture frames, and wooden puzzles. Gary was always quick to help a friend or neighbor in need.

James Riddell, MT ’76, passed away on December 15, 2011 at Fletcher Allen Health Care. Born in Waterbury, Clive is the son of James Grant and Ruthe Marjorie (Owen) Riddell. He attended Woodstock High School and Vermont Technical College. He served in the U.S. Army and was stationed in Germany from 1954 to 1957 where he was a platoon leader and received numerous commendations for his marksmanship, athletic achievements, and other accomplishments. After his military service, he returned to North Bridge- water, where he took possession of his family’s dairy farm. His life began from beginning to end was dedicated to agriculture, planting, harvesting, and farming. He enjoyed pizza, country roads, picnics, and sharing stories around the dinner table. Irving was a kind, thoughtful man who was always there for his family, his land, and spending time with family and friends. He always put others ahead of himself, never turning away a stray animal or helping anyone to help him in need. As a local historian and storyteller, he added his dry Vermont humor to almost every memory.

Michael Anastasi, CPA ’91, has announced his engagement to Lela Scortino. The future bride is employed as an account associate at Antares Health and the future groom is employed by the town of Watertown as a firefighter.

Dennis Shroder, CPA ’91, has recently an- nounced his engagement to Holly Ovitt. Dennis and Holly own Dry Brook Stables and Dennis is also employed by Valley Concrete Construc- tion. A August 2012 wedding is planned.

Jamie Campbell, AE ’09, recently became engaged to Ryan Janis. Jamie is an office manag- er and technician at a soils engineering firm in White River Junction and Ryan is a police officer for the North Haverhill Police Department. A September 2012 wedding is planned.
Save the Date!

Alumni Homecoming Day is Saturday, September 29.
Watch your mailbox for more details.

Nominate the Alumnus/Alumna of the Year!

They go the extra mile. They stand out for their contributions to the College, to the community, to their profession. This is your opportunity to tell us who deserves this year’s award for contributing in any or all of the above ways. The nominee must be a graduate of VSA, VATI, or Vermont Tech, and must be at least 10 years out (Class of 2002 or earlier).

Send your nomination letter to the Vermont Tech Alumni Association, Vermont Technical College, Randolph Center, Vermont 05061 (or email alumni@vtc.edu). The nomination should explain why the candidate should be selected and offer background information, an enumeration of achievements or contributions, and any other related information. The deadline for nominations is August 31.

Upcoming Events

The alumni office is in the process of planning several upcoming events.

Look for us at:

July 11
Voltage Soccer Club
Vermont Tech Night
St. Albans, VT

August 8
Allen House Open House
Randolph Center, VT 5:00-7:00 pm

August 10-12
Stowe Car Show
Stowe, VT

September 15
Tunbridge World’s Fair
Tunbridge, VT

September 29
Alumni Homecoming Day
Randolph Center, VT

Find us on Facebook!

That’s right - Vermont Technical College now has its own alumni page full of updates, photos, etc. Remember to “like” the page so we can stay in touch with you.

facebook.com/VermontTechnicalCollegeAlumni