

U.S. News
America's
Best
Colleges
2010

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The Alumnus

A quarterly alumni publication of Vermont Technical College

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VERMONT TECH IN THE TOP 25 AGAIN

Vermont Technical College has been named among the top 10 best public baccalaureate colleges in the North by *U.S. News & World Report*.

In its 2010 "Best Colleges" issue, Vermont Tech placed seventh among the best public baccalaureate colleges in the North and 22nd among all northern colleges, up two notches from its number 24 ranking in 2009, and eight notches from its number 30 ranking in 2008.

U.S. News & World Report's annual college rankings are widely anticipated, circulated and respected throughout the United States. There are 319 baccalaureate colleges ranked within four regions of the

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JAM-PACKED ALUMNI HOMECOMING DAY

It was a cool and rainy day for the 2009 Alumni Homecoming festivities on October 3. But the rain couldn't put a damper on the flurry of activity enjoyed by over five hundred prospective students, alums, and their families, all of whom took part in the many open house and alumni activities. "We were packed to the gills" said Carrie Clement, Alumni Day Coordinator. "Usually when we have bad weather on Alumni Day, our numbers go down – but not this year! We had the highest number of attendees in years!"

Clement also noted that a record number of alumni registered as walk-ins, which had a direct impact on the annual alumni luncheon. "Still," she said, "everyone got something to eat

and a terrific time was had by all." Like last year, all alumni events were held in the new campus center, which officially opened in late 2007.



Above, alumni chat and enjoy each other's company during the annual luncheon and meeting. It was a full house this year!

"Locating all of the day's main events in one building seemed to help some of our older alumni, as they didn't have to walk all over campus," Clement noted. "It's an ideal spot for alums to gather and catch up with old classmates. We did notice that we

(story continued pg. 3)

WELCOME
ALUMNI



By the time you receive this issue of the *Alumnus* we'll have wrapped up another successful fall semester. The tough economic climate notwithstanding, Vermont Tech continues to enjoy steady growth in most of our majors as well as an enviable job placement rate. In a year when job losses and cutbacks dominated the economic news, an impressive 95% of last year's graduating class found jobs in their fields or continued their education.

The college is completing a number of capital projects this fall, including new walkways, a completed "ring road" connecting the main and south ends of campus, new second-floor meeting space in the Red School House, a brand new firefighter training and, as I write, the transformation of Judd Hall into a multi-function building that will be able to host a wide range of activities. We've also completed a number of renovations to the Williston campus, including a new residence hall, library, and fitness center. It's been a lot of work, but building on and improving our facilities is a big part of the reason students are coming to Vermont Tech, and why the college is earning the recognition it is on both the state and national level.

I hope you look back fondly on your Vermont Tech experience and I hope as you think about what the college meant to you that you'll consider supporting us in whatever ways you can. A donation of any size will help today's deserving students become productive members of the Vermont and global working community.

Ty Handy

VERMONT TECH FARM IS FARM OF YEAR

Vermont Tech's farm was named "Farm of the Year" by the White River Conservation District because of its soil conscious cropping practices. These practices include cover cropping with rye, extensive soil testing and applying the appropriate nutrients based on the test results. This is a testament to the outstanding team of educators down on the farm.

In other farm news, The college market garden expanded to three (3) acres in 2009 and by all accounts it was a smashing success. And, Vermont Tech continued to sponsor a community market each Wednesday afternoon from May through September; a very nice addition to the Randolph Center community. Unsold and excess food from the college market garden was routinely donated to the Randolph Food Shelf; truly a win-win situation all around.

Ten farm students now live roomfree at the newly purchased property located at 44 Water Street. The ten students exchange their room rates for fifteen hours per week or work without pay at the farm. The students are required to pay board and eat in the dining hall. These students are paid for all hours worked in excess of the fifteen hour requirement. This provides an excellent opportunity for farm students to help significantly reduce the cost of their college experience.



Lydia Petty, DFM '08, and husband Colin Bright pose behind some of the brightly colored vegetables that were for sale this past summer.

(Top 25 story continued, pg. 1)

United States: North, South, Midwest, and West. Vermont Tech is one of just two Vermont colleges to make this year's "Best Baccalaureate Colleges" list.

"As you have to imagine, we're extremely pleased not only to have earned this kind of recognition," said college president Ty Handy, "but also to have earned it three years running with improvement in each of the three years. It reflects a lot of hard work by a lot of people, and it's a testimony to the kind of dedication and commitment our faculty and staff make – each and every day – to the college and its mission."

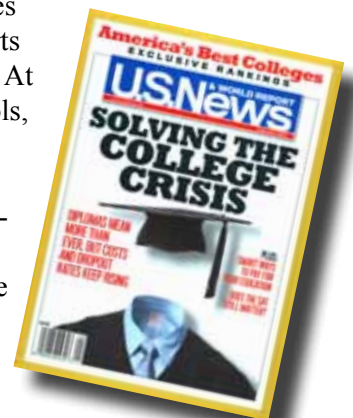
According to its web site, the U.S. News ranking system rests on two pillars: quantitative measures that education experts have proposed as reliable indicators of academic quality, and its own nonpartisan view of what matters in education.

The quantitative measures for baccalaureate colleges fall into six broad

categories: peer assessment; graduation and retention rates; faculty resources (for example, class size); student selectivity (for example, average admission test scores of incoming students); financial resources; and alumni giving.

"...we're extremely pleased not only to have earned this kind of recognition, but also to have earned it three years running with improvement in each of the three years,"

Baccalaureate colleges are defined by U.S. News as "institutions [that] focus primarily on undergraduate education...but grant fewer than 50 percent of their degrees in liberal arts disciplines. At these schools, at least 10 percent of undergraduate degrees awarded are bachelor's degrees."



youngest alums; and to the alum who traveled the farthest (see below right). A beautiful frame print of the Old Dorm was given to Edgar Butterfield, who turned 100 years old in January. Sadly, this was Edgar's last Alumni Day as he passed away in mid-November. The Association also presented the Honorary Alumni Award to a most deserving gentleman, Mr. Byron Angell. Mr. Angell was doubly surprised when most of his extended family, traveling from as far away as Maine, snuck in undetected and surprised him during the award ceremony. He was more than touched. In a note received after Alumni Day, Mr. Angell wrote, "I was overjoyed to have been there and to have been given the award."



Byron Angell, our newest Honorary member of the Alumni Association, stands in front above, surrounded by the many family members who surprised him as he was given his award.

Finally, the Alumnus of the Year Award was presented to John Palmer, ET '69. In nominating him for the award, his daughter Denise and son Andre wrote: "Dad truly cares about people and he has mentored a tremendous number of young adults... providing wisdom, encouragement and support to help them reach their greater potential. [He] set the standard for us by taking the initiative to lead by example...he created a legacy of volunteerism that continues to benefit many...and we would love to see him win the well-deserved honor of Alumnus of the Year."

As has now become tradition, the capstone of the afternoon was the annual alumni / varsity soccer game. We were happy to offer this rivalry again this year and, as usual, the alumni kicked some proverbial varsity butt to win the game (need score).

In the late afternoon, President Handy and his wife, Kim hosted members of the class of 1959 at their home for light refreshments.

"The day was a huge and busy success" said Clement. "Thank you to members of the Alumni Association Executive Board and our students for making this another memorable event." We're always looking for ways to improve the alumni day offerings. If you have a suggestion, please contact Clement at cclement@vtc.edu.

This day wouldn't be anything without your input!

Alumni Day Awards

"I Remember When" award to the oldest alum in attendance was given to Edgar Butterfield, AG '31.

"It Was Only Yesterday" award to the youngest alum present to Dan Martin, MT '89.

"Many Miles" award to Ruel Elliott, AG '59 who traveled 910 miles.

KNIGHT SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS



- » Two Vermont Tech students represented the College at the Northern Regional Championship of the National Guard FLW Collegiate Fishing competition. Ben Cayer and Justin Broulliard finished 12th out of 20 teams in the Regional Championship which was held in North Carolina. Earlier in the year, Justin and Ben placed second in the Potomac River tournament and came home with \$2,500 for themselves and \$2,500 for the Bass Fishing Club.
- » Vermont Tech sponsored the U.S. Collegiate Athletic Association national soccer championships for men and women. Games were played at the Tree Farm recreational facility in Essex Junction. The Lady Knights rebounded for a win in the second round to finish 6th in the nation. The men's team lost to two very tough opponents. Several Vermont Tech players were honored at the tournament banquet. Amy Galipeault was recognized as a USCAA All American. Academic All Americans included Kyle Wells, Lars Chickering-Ayers, Abbie Senesac, Bailey Lamphere and Stacey Corey.
- » The Vermont Tech women's soccer team was awarded the NAIA Sunrise Conference Team Sportsmanship Award and Amy Galipeault was named to the All Conference team.

VERMONT TECH EARNS "SCHOOL OF PRIORITY STATUS" FROM FAA

Vermont Technical College this week was certified by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as a "School of Priority Status", which will allow its graduates direct-hire access to jobs and internships at airports and FAA facilities throughout the United States. Under the FAA's Airway Facilities - Collegiate Training Initiative (AF-CTI), students at approved colleges and universities are eligible for internships during their college years in specialized aviation-related fields of study.

Vermont Tech is the only college in Vermont and one of just 40 schools nationwide to be named an FAA School of Priority Status.

"The Federal Aviation Administration projects that in the coming decade there will be large numbers of employees entering retirement, resulting in a need for well-trained engineers, technicians, and computer specialists," said Lauri Sybel, Director of Vermont Tech's Career Development Center. "And Vermont Tech graduates—especially those coming from the Electrical Engineering and Electromechanical Engineering Technology programs—are well qualified to step into these roles."

In selecting "Schools of Priority Status" the FAA takes a number of factors into consid-

eration, including curriculum, coursework, and facilities. The Vermont Tech program was first initiated in 2004. It was re-certified in November following a surprise visit and extensive review by the FAA.

"The FAA Student Intern Program offers students a unique opportunity for degree-related work experience at airports throughout the country," said Amy Corbett, Regional Administrator, New England region, "and for selected individuals, the potential for permanent positions in a wide range of specialties within the FAA, including Electronic Technicians, General Engineers, Environmental Protection Specialists, Airway Transportation Systems Specialists, Computer System Specialists, and Cartographers."

Students interested in participating in the AF-CTI Program via internships must be enrolled in an approved two-year certificate/degree or a four-year degree program for a minimum of one semester prior to applying to the program. For more information about the Collegiate Training Initiative and about Vermont Tech's bachelor and associate degree programs, contact Lauri Sybel at 802-728-1320; or visit the college's website at www.vtc.edu.



need to explore some other options for seating and meeting places next year, but with renovations currently going on in Judd and the Red School House, that shouldn't be a problem."

As in previous years, college President Ty Handy was on hand to introduce himself, chat, and share stories. "I always enjoy meeting our alumni and finding out what they're doing and what they've been up to," Handy said. "It is always informative to hear about the Vermont Tech they remember, as well as bring them up to date on what's going on up here on the hill."

During lunch, alumni and their guests enjoyed a traditional turkey dinner while being entertained by a musical duo from the Vermont Philharmonic Orchestra. Due to the tremendous alumni support this year, our tables were overflowing with alums and their guests. In fact, we had so many attendees that our catering staff was scrambling to find more food to feed the masses! (Thank you to those of you who had to wait for your dinner, and a huge thank you to the Aramark staff for making sure everyone had enough to eat!)

After lunch, the Alumni Association held its annual meeting where awards were given to the oldest and

(story continued pg. 5)

NEW FIREFIGHTER TRAINING FACILITY IS HOT

Participating in a groundbreaking ceremony for a new firefighter training building at Vermont Technical College on October 5, Sen. Bernie Sanders called the facility a major step forward in assuring high-quality training for firefighters across the state.

Sanders secured \$406,962 for the project, which includes a specialized structure called a live-burn building. In a successful federal, state, and local partnership, the State of Vermont committed \$440,000 to the project and the college provided \$50,000 for the facility. The total price tag is \$897,000.

"The new training facility will give firefighters the opportunity to learn scenarios they will likely see when responding to live emergency situations," Sanders said. "It will be centrally located and will greatly enhance the quality of training while reducing travel time and expenses incurred by many firefighters, especially volunteers."

The new burn simulator will be an asset to the Fire Science Degree Program, which has already enrolled nearly 30 students. "Firefighters always want to hone their skills, and new fire fighters need specialized training to learn their critical trade," Sanders said.

Sanders saluted Vermont's 5,600 volunteer firefighters and 300 career firefighters. "Both are critical, and both need and deserve more help, with training and education being a key need. We owe them all a very deep debt of gratitude as they make personal and financial sacrifices to keep our communities safe."

Matthew Vinci, president of the Professional Fire Fighters of Vermont, said, "This much-needed training facility is largely due to the coordination and support at the local, state and federal level. The fire service across Vermont is very grateful for the efforts of Senator Sanders, Governor Douglas and the Vermont Legislature for their combined efforts to bring this Fire Burn Training Building to reality. Vermont's Fire Fighters will be better prepared to respond to our neighbors' emergencies due to the training that we will receive at this facility."

Ty Handy, president of Vermont Technical College, said, "We're excited about the opportunities and synergies this will create between Vermont Tech's associate's degree program in Fire Science and the excellent training programs offered by the Vermont Fire Academy. Our students will benefit; Vermont's firefighters will benefit; and our local communities will benefit. This is a real win for everyone involved, and we appreciate all the hard work that's gone in to making it possible."

Also participating in the groundbreaking ceremony were Vermont Governor Jim Douglas; State Senator Phil Scott (R-Washington); State Representative Alice Emmons (D-Springfield); Steve Revell of the Vermont Fire and EMS Coalition; Jim Litevich, chief of the Vermont Fire Academy; and Gary Moore, chairman of the board of trustees for the Vermont State Colleges.



PLACEMENT RATE REMAINS STRONG

In a year when job losses, cutbacks, and the worst recession in 20 years have dominated the economic news, Vermont Tech has announced that 95% of its 2009 graduating class have found jobs in their fields or continued their education.

Offering a unique combination of classroom and "hands-on" training, Vermont Tech has a long and enviable reputation for producing graduates who are well-prepared for success in a wide range of technical, agricultural, and health-related fields.

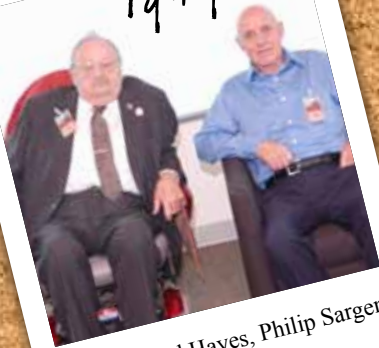
"Vermont Technical College has enjoyed a long history of meeting and exceeding the expectations of students, guidance counselors and parents for the employment and educational opportunities it offers," said Lauri Sybel, Director of the college's Career / Transfer Center. "I am told time and time again by employers throughout Vermont, New England and beyond that Vermont Tech students are viewed as very desirable assets for their companies."

Among this year's Class of 2009 highlights:

- Graduates enjoyed a 95% placement rate, despite the current economic recession.
- Sixty-three percent obtained employment and 37% elected to pursue advanced degrees (up 6% from last year) at colleges and universities throughout the country, including the University of Connecticut, Dartmouth, R.I.T., Norwich, Worcester Poly Tech, and the University of Montana.
- Of the graduates continuing their education, 150 or 81% chose to stay at Vermont Tech to pursue a bachelor's degree.
- Nine students reported for military service.
- A number of students reported part-time employment in their field until something full-time opens up.

Alumni Day 2009

1949



(L to R) Ned Hayes, Philip Sargent

1930



(L to R) Edgar Butterfield ('31)
Kenneth Ward ('38)

1944



(L to R) 1st Row: Burton Hodge, John Lasell. 2nd Row: Walter Bothfeld, Charles Hale, Robert Knox

1954



(L to R) Seated: Gale Parmelee, Francis Minor. Standing: Stephen Space, Julius Larrow, John Pierce, Richard Sherman, Arthur Gates

1959



(L to R) Seated: David Griggs, Curt Birnbaum. 2nd Row: John Eaton, Volney Blodgett, Stanley Robinson, Gene Sargent, Ralph Elliott. 3rd Row: William Duff, Charlie Parker, Theodore Dodge, Cecil White. Back row: Richard Portelance, Ruel Elliott, Robert Braley

1964



(L to R) Seated: Don Lovejoy, Malcolm Walker, Albert Lamson. 2nd Row: Dominique St. Pierre, Robert Halbett, Frank Lawrence, Richard Pattee, Paul McGinley. 3rd Row: Robert Matthews, Edward Stratton, Byron Quinn.

1966



(L to R) Roger Stowe, Gary Phelps, Lloyd Dike

1969



(L to R) Seated: George Shortsleeves, Michael Riordan. 2nd Row: John Collidge, John Palmer, Ray Clark, Fred DePaul. 3rd Row: James Pullman, Douglas hoes, David Magnant.

1974



(L to R) Paul Stanley, Richard Grant, David Thayer, Wynn Paradee

Class
Photos

1980's



(L to R) Dan Martin ('89), John Morin ('89), John Parker ('84), Michael Stridsburg ('84)

ALUMNI NEWSBRIEFS

Purchase Your Class Reunion Photos!

If you attended Alumni Homecoming Day 2009 and would like a copy of your class photo (as seen inside), send your request to the Alumni Office. Cost is \$5 for a 5x7 photo. Cost covers the printing and mailing of each photo.

Become a Member of the Alumni Association! Vermont Tech is a part of you. And we know joining some association won't make you a better alumnus/a. But if you're looking for a great way to stay in touch with your college and its community, there's no better way than with the Vermont Tech Alumni Association. For only \$25 a year, you can become an active member of the Vermont Tech Alumni Association -- \$150 for lifetime dues. Your dues go toward funding the annual alumni day events and this newsletter. Contact us by email or phone for more information.

Upcoming Events for 2010...

We know your schedules fill up fast - so mark the dates below on your calendar!

- » **May 8** Commencement | 2 p.m. | Shapiro Fieldhouse, Norwich University
- » **May 18** VAST Graduation | 6 p.m. | Judd Gym, Vermont Tech
- » **June 19** Nursing Graduation | 11 a.m. | Judd Gym, Vermont Tech
- » **October 2** Alumni Homecoming Day celebrating graduation years ending in "5" or "10". If you plan to attend from out-of-state and require a place to stay the night, we suggest you book your room now. Alumni Homecoming Day always falls during the peak of Vermont's foliage season and rooms can be booked up to a year in advance.

Thank you!

Money doesn't grow on trees. And with generous alumni like you, we don't need it to. Thank you for your donations to the 2009-2010 annual fund. We thoroughly appreciate your support.



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