



Memo *from the Valley*

Spring 2008

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A New Home for UVTI

After nearly forty years of working and teaching in rented spaces, UVTI will finally have a place of our own—a place that can be configured to meet our needs, a place that provides convenient communication between seminar and office activities, a place to convene groups large and small.

With a low interest loan from a U. S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development program, UVTI has purchased the building and will soon begin the essential renovations and remodeling. The staff will move in over the summer, and the 2008-2009 session will begin in new quarters in mid-August.

For Executive Director Rob Fried's thoughts on the move, please look inside. Then, next fall, stop by to see for yourself how we're doing in our new home.



The building on Route 4, before renovations



On Route 4 in Lebanon, halfway between the Lebanon Green and I-89's Exit 17, there stands a simple square building. Most recently, it housed Shaker Hill Granite, and before that it was an ice cream warehouse. As a result of this mixed heritage, the building boasts extremely thick, insulating walls in the warehouse space and gorgeous granite surfaces and ceramic tile floors in the main office areas.



Architect Karolina Burt's renditions of the building after renovation.



Bits 'n Briefs



▶ UVTI graduate **Sue Jukosky** (1993) recently had the opportunity to experience weightlessness on board the “Weightless Wonder” (also known as “the Vomit Comet”) at Johnson Space Center in Houston. Sue’s school, Indian River School in Canaan, is a NASA Explorer school, and her students’ experiment was accepted for one of the research flights. During the flight, the modified C-9 aircraft produces the effect of weightlessness by flying a roller-coaster-like path of steep climbs and falls. The NASA program is designed to inspire students to consider careers in science and technology by involving them (and their teachers)

in research. “We got to be weightless thirty times during the course of our flight,” Sue reports. “Being a teacher can be very cool!” In 2006, Sue was the New Hampshire Airforce Association’s Teacher of the Year for her work with the Indian River School students.

▶ **Employment Opportunities**

In the coming months, UVTI will need to replace our Assistant Director for the Secondary Program. Lyn Swett Miller will be stepping down from that position and concentrating on new media training and electronic portfolios. The Assistant Director for the Secondary Program oversees the application, the placement, and the UVTI seminar program for interns preparing to teach middle and high school in all subjects. This four-fifths position requires teaching experience and some level of supervisory experience. Candidates should have a deep commitment to teacher preparation and a sincere interest in working with adult, non-traditional students.

We are also seeking a new person to handle development and public relations activities. Current Assistant Director for External Relations, Carrie Brown, is leaving UVTI to return to her career as a museum curator.

If you are interested in either position, please contact Rob Fried (rfried@uvti.org).

Endow a Chair...or a Table...

Thanks to our USDA loan, we think we’ve got the cost of the building covered, and we’ll be moving our old office furniture over to the new site. The multi-use seminar space, however, still needs furnishings.

Give in your own name, give in honor of your favorite teacher, give for the benefit of future generations of teachers and students:

Seminar Chair	\$184
Trapezoid Table	\$197
Rectangular Table	\$282
Group of 6 Trapezoid Tables	\$1,182
Table & Chairs for Six	\$2,286



Please send gifts to UVTI or contact Carrie Brown, 603-448-6507 or cbrown@uvti.org.

All gifts will be acknowledged and are tax deductible.



Why a New Home? Why Now?

Home ownership, we are told, is a big part of “The American Dream.” Yet it is not a step that we take lightly, nor one that comes without cost.

For many, many years, those who cherish and support UVTI have focused their energies on enhancing the quality of our internship program, with laudable results. We have forged what I believe is the finest teacher preparation program in America. Larger institutions have renowned faculty, extensive libraries, outstanding facilities. UVTI has exemplary mentor teachers and supervisors, a dedicated Board replete with expertise, wonderfully diverse interns, and an evolving Learning Model that is the perfect complement to our in-school apprenticeships.

In focusing on our internship program for these many years, we’ve not concerned ourselves with “bricks and mortar,” nor have we ever mounted a “capital campaign.” So—why buy a building now?

The answer is both pragmatic and philosophical. On the practical side, we have simply run out of space, and we cannot expand in our current location. Plus, having our offices in one building and our seminars in another has always required an excess of schlepping. The quality of our weekly meetings with interns would be enhanced if we could use our learning and planning spaces flexibly, on our schedule, and in a manner that models our pedagogy—for example, moveable tables vs. fixed seating.

But there is another rationale. When I was hired as Executive Director, my charge was “to raise this successful program to a new level.” During the past 20 months, I have interpreted that charge as helping UVTI develop a deeper, more multi-layered response to the educational challenges of children and teachers in the Upper Valley. From this has emerged the Great Teaching Project, the training of principals via the Principal Residency Network, and other initiatives. The lack of a visible, physical **center**—a place where educational groups could come to meet, plan, inform, discuss, and envision the future—is a significant obstacle to this deeper sense of mission. We want to become the “go to” place for new ideas on teaching, learning and leadership.

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You can play a vital role in the convergence of the pragmatic and the visionary, as we prepare to relocate in the coming summer. On the practical side, we invite our many friends and supporters to help us equip our new facility—not through a capital campaign—but by purchasing a chair or table designed for optimal learning. On the philosophical side, you can share with friends the news of UVTI’s emergence from the shadows of rental offices and offer them an invitation to visit us, at www.uvti.org and in person, to see how their educational dreams intersect with our enhanced mission. In both ways, you can help us ensure that the successful past of UVTI is prologue to the future, with no loss of focus or integrity. Thank you.

Rob Fried
Executive Director



Upper Valley Teacher Institute

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Lebanon, NH 03766

www.uvti.org

in support of great teaching

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A Celebration of Teachers: My Very Best

Monday, May 5, 2008

Reception 4:15-4:30 pm

Presentations 4:30-5:30 pm

The Lebanon Opera House

Student Essays about their Teachers

A select group of students--and former students--from area schools will read essays about the teachers who have inspired them to do or be their very best.

Remarks by Robert L. Fried

The Passionate Learner: How Students, Parents, and Teachers can bring Joy to the Classroom.

The *Celebration* is free and open to the public.

Refreshments will be served.