

The University of Vermont James Marsh Professors-at-Large Program

The goal of the University of Vermont James Marsh Professors-at-Large Program is to bring to the University outstanding individuals of international distinction in the arts and humanities, sciences, social sciences, and applied fields. Professors-at-Large may work in or come from any intellectual field. They do not have to be academics, though typically most are affiliated with teaching and research institutions. Professors-at-Large are non-resident faculty with six-year terms of office who come to the campus three or four times during that period, each time for residencies of one to two weeks. Each year, up to four new Professors-at-Large may be appointed, but no more than twenty individuals may hold this extraordinary appointment at any one time. Under special circumstances, the President reserves the right to appoint exceptional affiliates and associates of the University of Vermont as Professors-at-Large who meet the established criteria. These appointees will serve the same term as other Professors-at-Large.

The program is named for James Marsh, the University's fifth president, a major figure in nineteenth-century American intellectual life. President Marsh was the first college leader to promote the elective system of course work for undergraduates that has become the norm in the United States and throughout much of the world, and it is thus fitting that a program designed to enlarge intellectual and cultural opportunities for undergraduate students, and for all members of the University community, should bear his name.

There is no set program for residencies by Professors-at-Large. Their sole mandate is to invigorate the intellectual and cultural life of the University. Selected not only for their high accomplishments, but also for their broad-ranging interests and their personal and professional accessibility, Professors-at-Large typically offer public lectures; hold office hours with undergraduate and graduate students; collaborate with students and faculty colleagues in scientific research, scholarly projects, and creative activities; conduct seminars and colloquia, generally with cross-disciplinary emphases; consult with students on undergraduate research projects and honors theses as well as on graduate theses and dissertations; and take part in informal conversations with students and colleagues.

The President's Office handles all the logistics of the visits. Faculty sponsors depend on the President's Office staff to provide such services as: scheduling visits; the obtaining of visas; provisions for ID cards and UVM network IDs; payment of honoraria, travel reimbursement, and any other expenses; organizing the schedule of activities; room scheduling and publicity; and the management of public lectures. The President's Office also assists Professors-at-Large directly while they are in residence to ensure that the visits go smoothly. Dr. Gary Derr, chief of staff to President Fogel and to Provost John Hughes, serves as Director of the James Marsh Professors-at-Large Program.

Professors-at-Large are considered honorary members of the faculty of the University. They receive a pro-rated salary and the program pays for travel to and from Burlington; housing; meals, and other in-residence expenses; as well as a reception for students and

faculty during each visit. The program is funded primarily by the income from an endowed presidential position, the Daniel Clark Sanders Professorship, named for the first president of the University.

Nomination Process

Professors-at-Large are nominated by individual faculty members, departments, or groups of departments. The process has two stages.

Pre-Proposal Letter

In the pre-proposal stage, the principle sponsor (or group of sponsors) supplies a letter to the Selection Committee noting the nominee's qualifications and achievements, along with a copy of the nominee's curriculum vitae. Nominees should be leaders in their own fields and professions. The selection committee seeks evidence of broad intellectual appeal across disciplines and fields of study, particularly for undergraduates. The committee will also consider the appeal the nominee has for the widest possible audience of both students and faculty. Nomination letters should mention other departments, faculty, or programs in addition to the primary sponsors that have agreed to support the nomination or might reasonably be expected to do so.

Pre-Proposal letters to are due no later than **December 7, 2007**. The Selection Committee will review the letters by **January 11, 2008**, and will invite selected sponsors to furnish a full proposal.

Full Proposal

At the full proposal stage, the sponsoring letter should be expanded and strengthened. The letter should be accompanied by additional letters of support in which faculty members from diverse disciplines express their support for the nomination. The full package is due in the President's Office on **February 15, 2008**. The Committee allows nominators to skip the Pre-Proposal stage and submit only the full nominating package, but Pre-Proposals generally elicit suggestions from the Selection Committee and the Program Director and thus help to produce stronger full proposals.

The Selection Committee reviews submitted nominations based on two main criteria: (1) the quality of the nominator's intellectual and cultural contributions and (2) the nominee's capacity to make some of those contributions accessible to non-specialists. Whenever possible, the Committee seeks to achieve broad representation across the academic disciplines.

After careful review, the Committee forwards its recommendations for appointment to the University President. The President will review the recommendations and make the final decision. The term of appointment for nominees approved in the spring will begin July 1. Nominators will be expected to participate as faculty sponsors during the course of the appointment.

Selection Committee

The Selection Committee will consist of no fewer than ten members of the faculty and, *ex officio*, the chief academic and chief research officers of the University (the Senior Vice President and Provost and the Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School). Broadly representative of the physical and life sciences, the social sciences, the humanities, and the arts, the Committee will be appointed by the University President from lists of nominees provided by the Faculty Senate and by the Deans, drawing equally from the two pools of nominees. Faculty members will serve staggered five-year terms, with two new members appointed each year.