



College of Agriculture and Life Sciences



moveMountains
The Campaign for The University of Vermont

this is 
WHERE



we apply **SCIENCE to** **BENEFIT SOCIETY**

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences prepares students to tackle some of society's most critical issues: healthy food systems, environmentally sound agricultural enterprises, policies and practices that sustain rural communities, and the use of modern molecular and cellular biology to improve quality of life. We equip graduates with the knowledge and skills they need to address these complex matters in innovative ways.

Move Mountains: The Campaign for The University of Vermont presents an opportunity to

strengthen UVM's capacity to produce the next generation of leaders in the life and social sciences by investing in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. With support from alumni, parents and friends for scholarships, endowed professorships and enhanced academic offerings, this college will advance forward-thinking programs and research activities that reach from cells to society and have a meaningful impact on the quality of life in Vermont, the nation and beyond. Join us.

30%

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' enrollment increase over the past five years shows that our programs are relevant and in high demand.

Investing in Agriculture and Life Sciences

Advancing Students: \$3 million

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is a magnet for bright students who are motivated to make a difference in the world. We have a long track record of producing graduates who are leaders in the private sector, government and



education, validating the success of our academic programs and commitment to students. Recent alumni are working at a biotechnology firm developing assays for environmental toxins; serving as a strategic advisor for the United Nations Foundation; founding a nonprofit organization committed to improving access to quality education in the world's poorest countries; and pursuing graduate degrees in a variety of disciplines at some of the country's most competitive programs.

It is critical for the college to have additional resources available to attract and retain the most talented and

motivated students. As a complement to our high-quality facilities and outstanding faculty, we aim to substantially increase endowments for both undergraduate scholarships and graduate fellowships.

Elevating Faculty & Programs: \$8.9 million

Endowed Professorships: The foundation of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is our faculty. These accomplished women and men are internationally renowned, routinely win national awards in research and teaching and serve on numerous



“**THIS IS WHERE** students are incredibly motivated, curious and environmentally minded. I’ve had tremendous undergraduate and graduate students in my lab working on climate adaptation in northern forest ecosystems. They’re attracted to UVM by the science that happens here and the great outdoor classrooms we have for both teaching and research.”

— *Stephen Keller studies ecological genomics and is an assistant professor in the Department of Plant Biology.*

influential professional panels. The college places high priority on elevating our most exceptional faculty through endowed professorships. Such positions provide the support they need to pursue new frontiers of research and scholarship. This, in turn, directly benefits our students through additional academic opportunities and elevates the prominence of programs in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. National competition to recruit the best scientists and educators is acute. Endowed professorships will give us a valuable edge when recruiting and retaining the best faculty.

Academic Programs: The college is known for offering outstanding opportunities for experiential learning. Indeed, more than 90 percent of College of Agriculture and Life Sciences students participate in one or more experiences outside the classroom through research, service learning and internships. A few examples include developing novel pathogen-detection technology for small-scale artisan cheesemakers; studying ecological and socioeconomic sustainability among Central American coffee farmers; and serving as a congressional intern in Washington, D.C. We want to create an endowed fund to

build on this foundation and strengthen all experiential learning offerings.

We also seek to expand the Fund for Undergraduate Student Excellence (FUSE). Currently, this fund supports leadership training activities, enabling a small number of students to attend conferences or professional meetings, undertake special research projects with faculty or participate in leadership training. With the resources created by this endowed fund, we aim to provide a higher level of support and increase participation in programs that are essential for creating tomorrow’s leaders.

Food Systems: \$4.25 million

UVM is recognized as a national leader in food systems, a field encompassing everything from soil and water quality to overall food and energy security. In a time of global climate change and environmental uncertainty, ensuring stable food supplies has become increasingly urgent. For the past four years, UVM has convened a national Food Systems Summit, an event bringing together hundreds of scholars, farmers, scientists and business leaders to discuss these issues.

In addition to the summit, the university's Food Systems Initiative has supported more than 140 research projects since its inception in 2010. As a rural state with a rich history of agricultural innovation, Vermont is an ideal living laboratory for this type of research. Discoveries made here can influence food systems practices across the country and around the world — uncovering viable alternatives to the global food system that

revitalize regional agriculture while improving public nutrition, protecting the environment and advancing local economies.

UVM was the first in the nation to offer a master's degree and Ph.D. in food systems. This field draws upon faculty expertise in several academic units, including the largest cohort within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Our faculty, together with colleagues from the College of Medicine, the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, the Grossman School of Business, the College of Arts and Sciences, and UVM Extension, are leading efforts to remain at the forefront of this vitally important teaching and research agenda.

Campaign investments totaling \$4.25 million in endowed professorships and graduate student fellowships are sought to enhance the college's contributions to The University of Vermont's leadership in food systems.

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is advancing knowledge in a variety of critical areas, from food systems, plant science and animal and veterinary sciences to community and international development and entrepreneurship to molecular genetics. Faculty are working on answers to pressing problems in these fields while also preparing the

next generation of leaders in the life sciences.

Move Mountains presents UVM with an extraordinary opportunity to invest in all of these vital areas, and we need your help. Together, through the campaign, we will succeed in helping our outstanding students reach their goals, inspiring our exceptional faculty to achieve new levels of scholarship and elevating our dynamic educational

programs to meet evolving needs of importance to Vermont, the nation and the world. Together, we will *move mountains*.

For more details about any of these giving opportunities, contact:

The University of Vermont Foundation
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this is WHERE



outstanding faculty conduct research and teach.

"I love the study and science of nutrition, and I love passing that excitement on to students," says Rachel Johnson, Ph.D., M.P.H., R.D., F.A.H.A, who is the Robert L. Bickford, Jr., Green and Gold Professor of Nutrition — the college's only named professorship. Johnson annually teaches the introductory Fundamentals of Nutrition, which allows her to share her passion and attract undergraduates to her research team studying childhood nutrition and obesity.

"Holding a named professorship provides discretionary research funds, so when there's an idea students want to pursue, we're able to," says Johnson, who is also a fellow of the American Heart Association and a past member of President Obama's Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition Science.

"There's also a certain amount of prestige that goes with holding a named professorship," she concludes. "They elevate the notoriety of an institution."



moveMountains

The Campaign for The University of Vermont

The time has come for UVM to assert our position as one of the nation's best public research universities. *Move Mountains: The Campaign for The University of Vermont* nurtures a culture of excellence and value and supports new opportunities for research, academic success and learning beyond the classroom. We will raise \$500 million in private support to ensure that UVM is where we indeed *move mountains* — through the students we educate, the discoveries we make and the positive impact we have on Vermont and the world.



The University of Vermont
FOUNDATION