

Local & State

News ■ Features ■ Analysis

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Vermont Today

cases, many changed from their original states.

After studying art at Goddard College as an undergraduate, David Smith went on to work with children's book author and illustrator Vera B. Williams in Goddard's Adult Degree Program.

Smith has worked as a scenic designer and painter in Philadelphia, a graphic designer in New York City, and an architectural and woodworking designer and builder in Vermont. In recent years, Smith has been an art instructor at Studio Place Arts in Barre.

The public is invited to a reception for the show on Thursday, May 5, from 5 to 7 p.m. The Supreme Court building is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

— Staff reports

Goddard's WGDR expands with new Hardwick tower

"The maturation of the station is going to be in step with the transformative educational experience of Goddard."

Kris Gruen, WGDR interim director, Goddard graduate

By DANIEL STAPLES
STAFF WRITER

PLAINFIELD — WGDR, Goddard College's radio station, has been a connection between the college and the community for 37 years, and with a new tower in Hardwick up and running and a new interim director, the station is reaching out in more ways than ever.

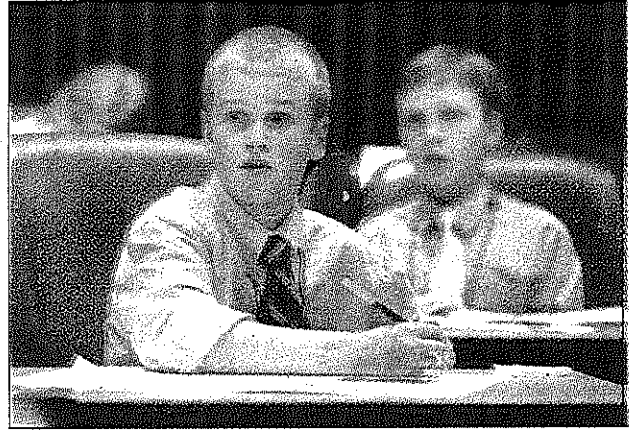
"I had to make sure I didn't drop the ball on the project," said Kris

Gruen, who stepped in as interim director for the station in November. "It was already in full steam when I came aboard."

The new tower is based in Hardwick and can be found on FM frequency 91.7 WGDH. The tower boasts 1,040 watts of power, more than doubling the power of WGDR, which will simulcast its programming

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KIDS' WORK



JEB WALLACE-BRODEUR / STAFF PHOTO

Ethan Eldred, left, of Montpelier, and Clay Messier of Essex Junction, listen to instructions in a conference room at National Life in Montpelier during national "Bring Your Kids to Work Day" on Thursday. About 25 children shadowed their parents to work at the insurance and investment giant and got an inside look at how the company operates.

WGDR

Continued from Page B1

from the new tower.

"Every manager over the years has fundraised and explored all the options," said Dave Ferland, operations manager at the station.

The tower process took off in 2007 when Greg Hooker, who was the director of the station at the time, submitted an application for the tower during a very short window of opportunity.

"Hooker went for it," Ferland said. "It was one week in October 2007 and he had to have engineering studies, documentation and fees all in place, and if it was not correct, the FCC would have just denied it."

Over the years, the station had considered several sites, including one in Montpelier, but Hooker chose the location in Lamoille County.

"We went for the sure thing in choosing the site," said Ferland.

Although the tower expansion has been a huge undertaking, Gruen is excited about other changes that the station is making, including documentation and assessment of the programming through a peer review process that Gruen said is structured on a variety of criteria.

The review process is called the Interactive Community Building Initiative, according to Gruen.

"The initiative asks the question: 'How do we discover the overlap of the school and the commu-

college, Barbara Vacarr, has been a catalyst in the process.

"Barbara has come in and focused this energy," said Ferland. "She has taken time to engage with the station. Just by her showing up it has done a lot for the station."

"It is unprecedented for the school to be this engaged with the radio station," said Gruen.

WGDR has a strong history of collaboration with the faculty and students at Goddard, and the on-air programmers have routinely used the faculty at Goddard for on-air content.

"Many Goddard students have decided to do their final presentation on the air," according to Gruen, "and people around the world can listen live on the Web."

Gruen himself used the station for his final project during his time at the school as a student.

"When I finished my education, I was spending more and more time at the station and my final project was connected to my work here at the station," said Gruen, who hosted the "Hungry Rat Review,"

which was a program where local elementary and high school students would produce live shows on the air.

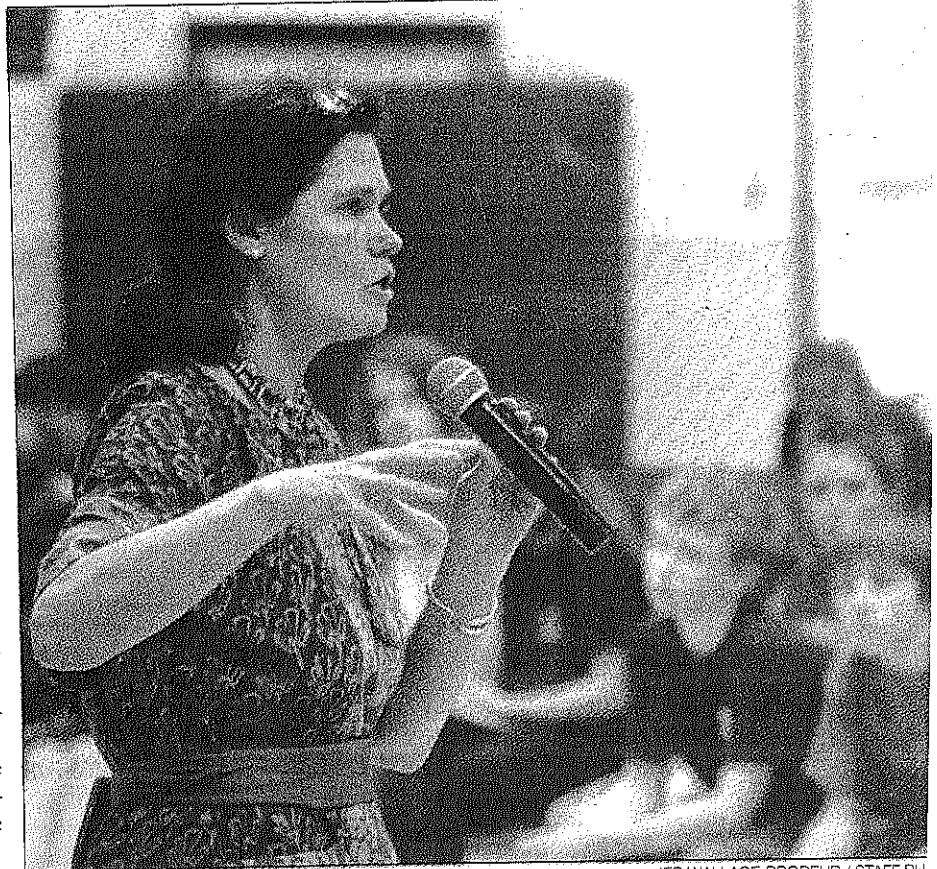
Gruen said the school was interested in bringing a director into place that wanted the expansion of an outreach program not only into the academic community, but in the community as a whole in a more direct and transparent way.

"The school has deep commitment to the community," said Gruen.

"The station is to be the media agent of the commonality of the two worlds."

Kris Gruen,
WGDR interim director

21ST CENTURY EXPLORER



JEB WALLACE-BRODEUR / STAFF PHOTO

Famed explorer, adventurer and author Jan Reynolds of Stowe speaks to students at Orange Central School on Thursday before delivering a slide show and talk on her adventures and interactions with native cultures.

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Gruen.

"The initiative asks the question: 'How do we discover the overlap of the school and the community?'" said Gruen.

"The station is to be the media agent of the commonality of the two worlds," said Gruen.

The initiative is being overseen by a programmer's assessment committee, Gruen explained, and the station also has a community advisory board that will help guide the transition of the station as it reaches for its goals of sustainable growth within the community.

Unlike many radio stations based on college campuses, WGDR does not rely solely on student programming, but has instead reached out to the community for its on-air programmers.

Gruen explained that WGDR is not referred to as a college radio station, but is a community radio station based at Goddard.

"The maturation of the station is going to be in step with the transformative educational experience of Goddard," said Gruen. "I see the elements as being very similar. It follows the Goddard tradition."

"Goddard is a very good source of cutting edge inquiry," Ferland said.

Gruen said that one of his main focuses was to foster the relationship between Goddard and the community and that the new president of the

parent way.

"The school has deep commitment to the community," said Gruen.

The community has always filled in for the student-run station and since the residential program ended, the community stepped in, according to Gruen.

"It is a brilliant expression of the people that live in the area," said Gruen. "They have shown altruism and the willingness to give and their desire to follow their own passions. The community involvement in the station has grown up in its own right."

"The school wants to resource the station as a real service for the community," Gruen said.

"Building the assessment piece is a way to improve the service," said Gruen. "It's a way to support the creative growth."

In his short tenure as interim director, Gruen has already hosted several events and workshops that were open to students as well as the community.

"All these initiatives move us towards a new model for WGDR as a resource for all the community's interests," said Gruen.

"Goddard is committed to the long-term growth of the station," Gruen said.

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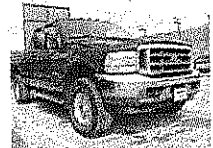
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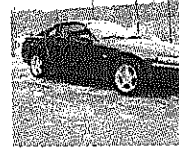
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