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Hill Named Recipient of 2010 Milt Silveira Award

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Dr. Jane Hill, Assistant Professor in the School of Engineering, has been named as the recipient of the 2010 Milt Silveira Distinguished Faculty Award by Bernard "Chip" Cole, Interim Dean of the UVM College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences (CEMS). Cole will formally present the award to Dr. Hill at a CEMS faculty meeting this fall. The award consists of a plaque and is accompanied by a \$2,000 prize.

This award, established in 2008 by Dr. Milton Silveira, recognizes the junior faculty member in the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences who "best embodies a 'pioneering spirit,' drive and potential to succeed at the highest levels of his or her profession." The first two recipients of the

award were Dr. Josh Bongard and Dr. Frederic Sansoz who were selected from strong pools of candidates.

"Dr. Hill has set a high standard for research productivity and serves as a model for junior faculty in her area on a national level," says Bernard "Chip" Cole, Interim Dean of CEMS. "She's been very successful at obtaining competitive grant funding, has developed a substantial research group, and does interesting, innovative work."

Hill works in the area of bacterial pathogen fate and transport, focusing on bacterial migration biophysics, motivation for nutrient transformation, and rapid detection of infection using novel technologies. She received \$750,000 from NASA through Vermont's NASA EPSCoR Project for her work in collaboration with Prof. Britt Holmén (CEMS) and researchers from the College of Medicine, including Professors Matthew Poynter, Daniel Weiss, Laurie Whittaker, and Matthew Wargo. Her team is currently studying the transmission of illnesses and immune system responses in the closed environment of a longduration space mission. This collaboration between experts from multiple disciplines is a valuable component of the interactive nature of the UVM research community. The team is rigorously testing the hypothesis that microgravity-grown bacteria will affect lung epithelial cells in a manner distinct from bacteria grown under conventional conditions. For more on this research visit the Hill Lab website.

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