Jeff Dinitz Named
2008 University Scholar

Dr. Jeffrey Dinitz, professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics in the UVM College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences has received one of the four University Scholar Awards for 2008. Each year faculty make recommendations for this award based on sustained excellence in research and scholarly activities.

The other 2008 University Scholars recipients are: Dr. Marjorie Lipson, from the UVM Department of Education; Dr. Benjamin Littenberg, from the College of Medicine, and Dr. Robert Rogers, from the UVM Classics Department. Each receives $2500 for research purposes.

"These awards encourage a climate of scholarship at UVM," says Domenico Grasso, dean of the UVM College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences. "To have one of faculty as a recipient of these awards reflects the high quality of research and scholarly activities of our faculty in CEMS."

"It is truly an honor for me to be recognized by the University in this way," says Dinitz.

Dr. Dinitz's area of research is in combinatorial designs. This is an area of mathematics that has it's origins in statistics and in finite geometry. He is interested in finding computational, algebraic and recursive methods for determining the structure and existence of combinatorial designs, as well as in applications of combinatorial configurations to computer science. Dr. Dinitz has published over 80 papers in the top journals in his field.   He also created the "Dinitz Conjecture" presented to Paul Erdos in 1979, and proven by Fred Galvin of the University of Kansas in 1994.

Dr. Dinitz and colleague Dalibor Froncek were involved with the now defunct football league, the XFL as they constructed the schedule of play for the 2001 season. This received national recognition through a feature article in the New York Times.

In addition to his scholastic accomplishments, Dr. Dinitz is co editor-in-chief of the *CRC Handbook of Combinatorial Designs* (with Charlie Colbourn), and one of the editors-in-chief and managing editor of the *Journal of Combinatorial Designs* the flagship journal in the area of combinatorial designs.   He has given keynote talks at major international conferences in New Zealand, Germany, Slovakia, Iran, England and the United States. Dr. Dinitz was also the Chair of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics from 1998 to 2004 and holds a secondary appointment in the Department of Computer Science.