

VAAS Newsletter

SPRING 2014

VOLUME 28, NUMBER 1

VAAS Officers

- Connell Gallagher, President
- James Conley, Vice President
- William Brown, Secretary
- Lauren Howard, Treasurer



**VERMONT ACADEMY
OF ARTS & SCIENCES**
SINCE 1965

Congratulations to Ryan Ackerman, a student at Castleton State College, who won the VAAS logo contest. His winning entry is to the left. More information on page 2.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The state of the organization is sound. Two new trustees were elected at our winter board meeting in Castleton bringing the total board up to 15 members: Tim Segar is a sculptor from Marlboro College and Jonas Prida is from the College of St. Joseph in Rutland. Jim Conley was elected as Vice President at the same meeting. In 2013 the VAAS produced three strong programs with good attendance: Christina Chant and Jim Conley arranged the Intercollegiate Student Symposium in April at St. Michael's College; Flo Keyes and Connell Gallagher set up the Fellows Luncheon in September in Middlebury, and Connell Gallagher orchestrated the fall conference on "Vermont in the Civil War," co-sponsored by the Vermont Council on the Humanities and the St. Albans Historical Museum. Sanjukta Ghosh did a fine job on the publicity, for over 60 persons attended the conference. This was our first appearance in Franklin County, and

it was very successful.

We elected five new Fellows in September: Author Julia Alvarez (Weybridge), Author Chris Bohjalian (Lincoln), Artist Sabra Field (Barnard), Biology Professor Lauren Howard (Northfield) and Chemist Paul Krapcho (Shelburne). Trustees Ken Leslie and Sanjukta Ghosh designed a logo contest to help improve our image, and the winning entry was submitted by Ryan B. Ackerman, a student from Castleton State College. Ken and fellow trustee Tim Segar are working on ways to integrate this design into all of our materials. Trustee John Van Hoesen has redesigned our website, so please take a look. We awarded small grants for Vermont History Day (Bill Brown) and for science projects (Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux). Christina Chant and I represented the Academy at a STEM workshop in Montpelier in August.

As we move into 2014 we are looking forward to our upcoming

Intercollegiate Student Symposium being planned by Kevin Fleming at Norwich University and which will take place on Saturday April 26, 2014. We call on all of our members to suggest and nominate candidates for this year's VAAS Fellows. We will be reviewing the final group of nominees in May and will elect the new fellows at our June board meeting. Bennington College has invited us to hold our 50th anniversary conference on that campus in the fall of 2015. We will forego a 2014 conference in order to spend the time planning for what we hope will be a super conference the following year. We plan to have programs focusing on the humanities and the sciences, and are hoping to include a musical performance as part of the conference. We invite all of our members to send us suggestions for events and panels. Thank you all for all that you do for the VAAS.

Connell B. Gallagher,



VAAS TO HOST STUDENT SYMPOSIUM AT NORWICH

The Vermont Academy of Arts & Sciences will be hosting the 48th Annual Intercollegiate Student Symposium at Norwich University in Northfield, Vermont on **Saturday, April 26, 2014** from 9 AM until 1 PM. (See our website – vaas.us – for a map and directions). This event is an outstanding opportunity for students to present their ideas and work to a larger community of peers. Author Julia Alvarez, a 2013 Fellow of the Academy, recalled in her acceptance speech when she presented her poetry in our 1970 Intercollegiate Student Symposium at UVM. Her presentation at that Symposium was a proud achievement for her then, and she was very touched to be honored as a VAAS Fellow 43 years later. **We invite all VAAS members and guests to attend this important introduction to the scholarly life for our undergraduates. Please contact Dr. Kevin Fleming at kfleming@norwich.edu to let him know that you will be there to offer your support to these young scholars. Lunch will be provided FREE.**



VERMONT ACADEMY OF ARTS & SCIENCES

— SINCE 1965 —



CASTLETON STUDENT WINS VAAS LOGO

CONTEST by Sanjukta Ghosh

Ryan Ackerman's design (shown above next to a photo of Ryan) for a new VAAS logo was chosen in a statewide contest by the Board of Trustees of the Academy at their winter board meeting in Castleton. Ackerman is a senior in the Castleton State College Communication Department. The design included a blind white silhouette of a microscope and a cup holding paint brushes and pens juxtaposed on a view of four green mountains. The mountains symbolize the state and the four principal activities of the Academy: the Intercollegiate Symposium, the Annual Conference, the Publication of Papers, and the Election of Fellows. The 1965 date on the logo marks

the founding of the Academy 49 years ago. The logo therefore beautifully captures the connection to Vermont and, the mission of the VAAS, and our history.

The contest was created and carried forward by trustees Ken Leslie of the Johnson State College Art Department and Sanjukta Ghosh of the Castleton State College Communications Department. Twenty-five submissions were received from a variety of colleges and universities in Vermont. Ken Leslie and trustee Tim Segar, a sculptor from Marlboro College, will help us to integrate the logo into all of our printed materials. Congratulations to Ryan!

Do you know any Vermonters who would be honored to be elected VAAS Fellows? The criteria for being elected is as follows: “The candidate must be living and of mature experience; must be exemplary in repute; would respect being a Fellow of the Academy; would bring prestige to the Academy; must have made an extraordinary contribution in or to the arts, humanities, sciences, social sciences or teaching; contributions must have made a substantial impact on the life and conditions in Vermont, or if such impact be elsewhere, credit therefore rebound to Vermont, its institutions, people or influence...” The Fellows Committee would love to have names of worthy individuals from all walks of life. Please send names and supporting materials to:

Connell B. Gallagher
 PO Box 240
 Underhill, VT 05489
cbgallag@uvm.edu

For a list of current Fellows please see our website at vaas.us. If you have questions, please contact Connell by mail, email or phone ((802) 899-3034). Thank you.



VAAS SELECTS STATE SCIENCE AND MATH FAIR WINNER FOR AWARD

The Vermont State Science Fair was held at Norwich University on Saturday, March 29. Middle and high school students from all over the state displayed over 300 projects. Lauren and Judy Howard, both trustees of the VAAS, judged all of the senior projects for the Vermont Academy of Arts and Sciences Award of \$200. Three of those projects are shown here. Quincey Smith from Windsor High School measured radiation at various distances from Vermont Yankee, but found no discernible increase toward the plant. Ethan Hill, also from Windsor High School studied the effect of travelling distance on home court advantage in basketball using NBA data over three different seasons. The winner, however, was Gailin Pease from Burlington High School, who did a project entitled “Learning and Habituation in Evolutionary Robotics.” She wrote a computer program to simulate movement of a simple legged robot, and tested whether storing results of 5,000 simulations in the memory bank would improve performance. This is the same learning technology being used in cars today to automatically prevent accidents. Gailin has been accepted to and will be attending MIT in the fall. —
Lauren Howard

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Members looking to renew their membership or non-members wanting to join are encouraged to return the enclosed form with payment. Your contribution helps on many levels, including funding scholarships for students who demonstrate high achievements and potential. You can also find the form online at www.vaas.us.

Thank you for your support!



VERMONT ESTEEM NETWORK WORKSHOP HELD AUGUST 2013 by

Christina Chant

On August 20, 2013, in Montpelier, Vermont, over forty scientists, educators, elected officials and others met to begin what will hopefully be a long and fruitful venture focused on developing a centralized website for Vermont's science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) resources. The workshop, initiated and spearheaded by Dr. Carl Pinkham, was meant to initiate talks regarding the creation of this new website. The acronym ESTEEM (Enthusiasm for Science, Technology, Engineering, Entrepreneurship and Mathematics) was introduced to represent the focus of the site, which would be written and run by the Vermont ESTEEM Network (VEN). Many if not most of the attendees served as delegates for various institutions, including the Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium, UVM, St. Michael's College, Norwich University, Vermont Technical College, Vermont Department of Labor, Vermont Academy of Arts and Sciences, American Precision Museum, local school districts and other institutions.

The goal of the website is to gather all STEM education and workforce development resources into one place, a place that would be easily accessible to educators, job seekers, students, parents and employers. Following the keynote speech by Lt. Governor Phil Scott, Dr. Pinkham gave his opening remarks, which included his goals for the end of the day. His overall

objective was to generate ideas on the best approach for developing this centralized website, including brainstorming ideas on the website's content, funding the website, determining who would use it, and eliciting volunteers to manage various parts of its development and modification. There were three breakout sessions – VEN Basics, Website Vision, Website Management and overall Vision (for organization). These breakout sessions were each followed by full group sharing of individual group findings, and culminated in a full group discussion on a plan of action and timeline.

The main finding was that, for this to succeed, an organization to manage and steer the website development was needed. Several committees are required, including an Organizing Committee; the most important points were sharing resources, delegation of responsibility and power and narrowing the scope of the mission to avoid having the task become too overwhelming.

The workshop was sponsored by the Vermont State Science and Mathematics Fair (VSSMF) and the Vermont Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (VT EPSCoR), along with the Vermont Agency of Education, United Technologies, CHROMA, Entergy Vermont Yankee, and the Vermont Technology Council.



VAAS WINNER FOR VERMONT HISTORY DAY SELECTED by Bill Brown

Vermont History Day is an education program that leads to a special one-day event that is organized by the Vermont Historical Society. This annual event encourages students to expand their knowledge of history and share their work by developing and presenting exhibits, web sites, documentaries, performances or papers. Through their work, students gain a deeper understanding of how people, cultures, and events affect the course of history. Vermont students in grades 5 through 12 and home study students ages 10 to 18 may participate. At the Vermont History Day event, students' entries are judged by local historians, educators, and other professionals. There are twenty special prizes and awards for outstanding projects, including a \$200 award from the Vermont Academy of Arts and Sciences for the best paper or exhibit on the subject of art, literature, science, or technology.

Vermont History Day is affiliated with National History Day, which coordinates similar work by more than half a million students and thousands of teachers nationwide. Students who have submitted high-scoring entries to the Vermont History Day are eligible to attend the National History Day contest in College Park, Maryland.

The Vermont Historical Society has been engaged in preserving Vermont's history since 1838. Its purpose is to reach a broad audience through outstanding collections, statewide outreach, and dynamic programming. The Society, a non-profit corporation, believes that an understanding of the past changes lives and builds better communities. To further the Society's goals, it operates two very substantial facilities in central Vermont, as well as hosting a range of outreach activities.

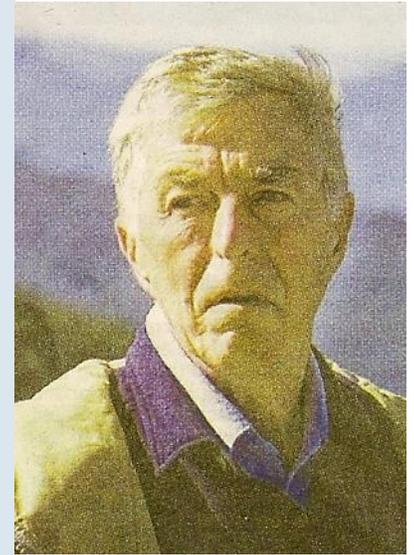
The winner of the 2014 VAAS Award at Vermont History Day was Abby Crowley for an exhibit in the Junior Individual category, with the title "Rights and Responsibilities of Preserving and Protecting Vermont's Wildlife and Environment". Abby is a student of the Mount Holly School; her teacher is Shelley Townsend. She was presented with a check for her award on Saturday, the 5th, at the History Day Awards Ceremony.



Vermont students at the 2013 National History Day contest in College Park, Maryland

THIS NEWSLETTER IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF VAAS FELLOW HUB VOGELMANN

Hubert “Hub” Vogelmann, 84, of Jericho, passed away in the fall of 2013. Hub was a botany professor emeritus at UVM and a founding member of the Vermont Natural Conservancy chapter. Though he served for 16 years of his 36 at UVM as chair of the botany department, his roles as educator and conservationist extended way beyond the UVM campus. He founded the Field Naturalist program, which is unique in its integration of science and fieldwork, critical thinking, and public communications to produce leaders in the environmental policy, land stewardship, research, conservation and education. His research led him on many adventures collecting plants in the upper Amazon basin, conducting research on cloud rain forests in Mexico, and hitchhiking on planes in the Arctic to study tundra. Hub is well known for his research on Camel’s Hump that brought national attention to the issue of acid rain and contributed to air-quality legislation. In 2000 he was honored by the dedication of the Hub Vogelmann Research Natural Area at Camel’s Hump State park. Though he received many awards throughout his life, including an honorary degree from UVM in 2006, he was honored to be elected as a Fellow of the Vermont Academy of Arts & Sciences in 1987. He donated his papers to UVM, and he spent much of his last years working on a memoir, *On Schillhammer Road: the Life of a Botanist*, which was published in 2011. —Connell Gallagher



Edited by Christina Chant, St. Michael’s College
Have a wonderful spring!

VERMONT ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

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TO:

Our website is new and improved!
Come visit us at www.vaas.us