

VAAS Newsletter

SPRING 2015

VOLUME 29, NUMBER 1

VAAS Officers

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



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

The 49th Annual Student Symposium is scheduled for April 18, 2015 at Green Mountain College in Poultney, VT. More information on p. 6.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The VAAS is three months into our 50th anniversary, and plans for the year are moving ahead. John Van Hoesen is putting the final touches on the 2015 Spring Intercollegiate Student Symposium to be held at Green Mountain College in Poultney, Vermont on Saturday April 18, 2015. See further details on this annual event in this newsletter and on our webpage.

The VAAS will present awards at two upcoming events, both on Saturday March 28th. The Vermont State Science & Mathematics Fair will be held at Norwich University in Northfield. This is an inquiry based poster-presentation competition open to all middle and high school level students in the state of Vermont. Vermont History Day is an exciting education program that encourages students to study history. The competition, always held at the Vermont Historical Society will be at the U-32 High School in East Montpelier this year. It is open to Vermont

this year. It is open to Vermont students ages 10-18, working individually or in groups on a topic related to the National History Day annual theme, this year, "Leadership and Legacy in History." Students do research and interviews and present their projects in the format of their choice: Exhibits; websites; documentaries; performances; or papers.

The 16 members of our Board of Trustees who represent eight institutions in the state are looking forward to the Academy's fall programs. A number of the trustees are working on the citations for the Fellows nominated this year. The board will vote on these at our mid-May trustees meeting, and we will plan the fall Fellows Luncheon around the candidates elected. We had a very successful fall Fellows Luncheon at the Windjammer Restaurant in Burlington last fall. Over 40 persons attended, including 23 Fellows. It was a beautiful sunny day and the

beautiful sunny day, and the Windjammer gave us the lovely Garden Room surrounded by windows. The food and choices were excellent. The restaurant prepared a special menu just for our lunch and the service was exemplary. We celebrated the achievements of four new Fellows: UVM Microbiologist Paula Fives-Taylor (South Burlington); Novelist and Poet David Huddle (Burlington); Children's Author and Community Activist Reeve Lindbergh (Passumpsic); and Vermont Filmmaker Bess O'Brien (Barnet). Our fall conference on "The Future of Vermont" will be held at Bennington College on Saturday October 17, 2015. The morning keynote speaker, VAAS Fellow Bill McKibben from Middlebury College, will look at the environmental challenges facing the state in the near and distant future. Former VAAS President and Professor Emeritus of Biology at St. cont. on p. 4

VAAS FELLOWS LUNCHEON A SUCCESS

The Vermont Academy of Arts and Sciences holds an annual Fellows Luncheon for the induction of new Fellows. Our Luncheon this year was held on Saturday, September 13, 2014 at the Windjammer Restaurant in Burlington. We inducted four new Fellows – Paula Fives-Taylor, David Huddle, Reeve Lindbergh and Bess O'Brien. Because of the stimulating conversation, the beautiful venue and the wonderful food, the luncheon was declared a success by all who attended.



The attendees at the 2014 Fellow Luncheon listen to a new Fellow speak while enjoying their lunch.

David Huddle, a new Fellow, reads from his new novel, "The Faulkes Chronicle".



Professor Emerita Paula Fives-Taylor giving her acceptance speech after being made a 2014 VAAS Fellow. She was professor of microbiology at UVM. She died in January 2015.

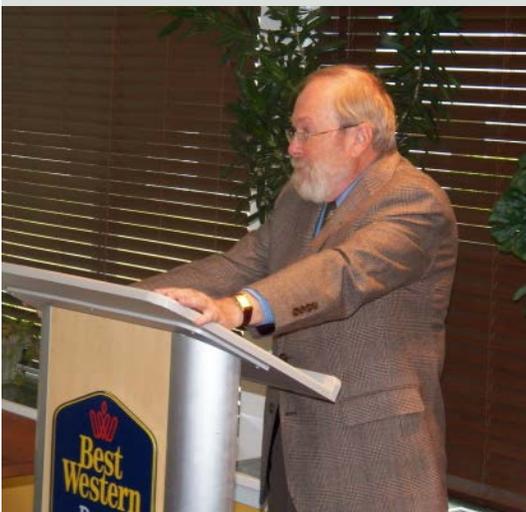
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Fellows luncheon, cont. from p. 2



Reeve Lindbergh giving her acceptance speech after being made a VAAS Fellow. She is the daughter of Charles and Anne Morrow Lindbergh.

Filmmaker Bess O'Brien (left) receiving her citation from former VAAS President Robert Buckeye (right). Bess made the film "The Hungry Heart" about drug addiction in St. Albans.



Connell Gallagher, current VAAS president, presides over the 2014 Fall Fellows Luncheon.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW VAAS FELLOWS!

President's Report, continued from p. 1

Michael's College, Dan Bean, will present a luncheon talk on the history of the Academy. The VAAS was founded in 1965 on the initiative of Lucien M. Hanks, then Professor of Anthropology at Bennington. Bean's talk will be followed by a musical interlude arranged and performed by one of our Fellows. There will be an afternoon panel of three speakers who will address the future of the arts, sciences and humanities in Vermont. VAAS Fellow and President of Marlboro College Ellen McCulloch-Lovell has agreed to tackle the first of these three topics. Other speakers are being considered. We hope that all of you will mark your calendars for the Symposium on April 18th and for the conference on October 17th.

Connell B. Gallagher, President, VAAS



FAREWELL TO THREE FELLOWS

by Connell Gallagher

VAAS said goodbye to three Fellows who died since our last newsletter. **Dr. Frederick C. Evering (1936-2014)** received the Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from Johns Hopkins University and was a Professor of Electrical Engineering at the University of Vermont for 32 years. He served as Chair of his department and Dean of the College of Engineering, Mathematics and Computer Science as well. He was the founder and director of the Large Scale Institute Master's Program, which brought 25 mid-career IBM engineers to campus for an intensive Master's Degree in Computer Engineering. Fred was active professionally beyond the university, serving as president of the Vermont section of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering among other scientific organizations. In addition, he was very active in the VAAS, serving as the Treasurer for over 20 years. He and his wife Veronica (who predeceased him) were always together at every VAAS function for those 20 years.

Robert N. Spear Jr. (1920-2014) served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. After the war he began a 21-year career with General Electric in Burlington. He retired in 1973 and then founded and directed the Green Mountain Audubon Nature Center in Huntington until 1978. After he retired from this position he began to carve birds full-time and with his

position, he began to carve birds full-time and with his life partner, Gale Lawrence, he opened the Birds of Vermont Museum at the Audubon Center, which became the capstone of his career. He was an avid advocate for the conservation of Vermont's wild spaces, and he wrote the book *Birds of Vermont* in 1969, followed by two updated editions in 1971 and 1976.

Paula Fives-Taylor (1933-2015) served for 35 years as Professor of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics at the University of Vermont College of Medicine, and she died four months after she was elected Fellow of the Vermont Academy of Arts & Sciences. She was a prolific researcher, an award winning teacher and an energetic mentor, particularly in encouraging young women to pursue careers in science. She had a passion for studying bacterial-host cell interactions, and she became an expert in research on the link between dental plaque and disease. She was named a University Scholar in 1989, the most prestigious faculty award granted by the university. Following her retirement in 2008, Fives-Taylor channeled her passion into a new vocation as a hospice volunteer, providing end of life support for patients through the Visiting Nurse Association of Chittenden and Grand Isle Counties.

VERMONT HISTORY DAY AND THE VAAS AWARD

by Geraldine and William Brown

At the Vermont History Day event, a spirit of excitement and pride, of expectation and nervousness, and of youthful enthusiasm and mature confidence can be found in the many presentation spaces. Students from all over Vermont have worked hard and learned much. Although this is a contest, it is first and foremost an experience of learning and intellectual development. The young participants have been working alone or in small groups for many months, concentrating on a topic of their choice within a given theme that is both complex and filled with possibility. Their mentors have been, by and large, their teachers; and the work has been done mostly on their own time, outside of daily studies. It has been a voyage of discovery, discipline, and new insights; an experience which they will not soon forget.

The Vermont Historical Society has hosted the annual statewide History Day event since the mid-1980s. It is a contest for students in Vermont's schools, grades 5 through 12, and is also open to home study students ages 10 to 18. The submissions may be in the categories of papers, exhibits, performances, documentaries or websites. Throughout the late fall and winter, students conduct primary and secondary research related to the annual theme. In 2015 the theme is "Leadership and Legacy in History". The work may examine the theme from the perspectives of history, arts, science, culture, or technology. Their scope may be local, national, or international. The participating students are expected to visit libraries, archives, museums, and historic sites, and to interview experts on their topic; or to conduct oral interviews, use cameras, find artifacts, write scripts, or become webmasters.

There are rules for each form of presentation, so students must also discuss, organize, and verify their materials. They must distinguish between primary and secondary sources, a new task for the youngest, and still a difficult one for many older students.

Judges for the final presentation on History Day – in 2015 on March 28th at the U-32 High School in East Montpelier – take their duties seriously. The goal of the judges is to encourage the diligence and ongoing efforts of every student. Every presentation is worthy of recognition. The numerous volunteer judges include historians, teachers, museum curators, librarians, and others – all members of our communities. They review the work of the participating students, with the students present during at least part of the review.

This is an intense time for the students, for they must defend papers and bibliographies, describe processes, discuss purposes and results, and in an overall way be the authoritative sources of the work at hand. They are judged on originality, depth of study, use of sources, accuracy, and historical significance. For the judges, one of the most rewarding jobs of Vermont History Day is to converse with all of these young people about their accomplishments. After the completion of the judging, the public is invited to see the work on display. Rankings in the contest are announced, and special prizes and awards are given in a closing ceremony.

The VAAS special award is one which is much esteemed, and it is given each year to the student (or students) with the best paper or exhibit on the subject of art, literature, science, or technology. The VAAS Award includes a \$200 cash prize, which is distributed evenly in the case of a group project.

Geraldine and William Brown have both served as judges at Vermont History Day. Geraldine has been responsible for the development and presentation of programs for both the Billings Farm & Museum and the Vermont Historical Society, and William is a former Director of the Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium and a Trustee of VAAS.

VAAS TO PRESENT AWARD FOR BEST STUDENT PROJECT AT THE VERMONT STATE SCIENCE AND MATH FAIR

by Lauren Howard



The Vermont State Science and Math Fair was held at Norwich University on Saturday, March 28 from 8:30 to noon. As always, it was open to the public and was free of charge. Students from grades 5-12 from schools throughout the state presented about 250 poster presentations of original research. About 200 judges were on hand to evaluate the projects and over \$6,000 in cash and \$900,000 in scholarships to Vermont colleges was awarded. The VAAS awarded a \$200 cash prize for the best senior project. The winner will be announced in the next newsletter.



VAAS TO HOST STUDENT SYMPOSIUM AT GREEN MOUNTAIN COLLEGE



Photo credit: Eric Hudiburg

The Vermont Academy of Arts & Sciences will be hosting the 49th Annual Intercollegiate Student Symposium at Green Mountain College in Poultney, Vermont on **Saturday, April 18, 2015** 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. **We invite all VAAS members and guests to attend this important introduction to the scholarly life for our undergraduates. Please upload submissions by April 3, 2015 using the following link: <https://dbinbox.com/VAAS>. If necessary, you can e-mail them to Dr. John van Hoesen at vanhoesenj@greenmtn.edu. Please plan on attending to offer your support to these young scholars. Lunch will be provided FREE.**

CALLING ALL POTENTIAL VAAS FELLOWS!

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
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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.

IS IT TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

Members looking to renew their membership or non-members wanting to join are encouraged to print out the form found at www.vaas.us and send it to us with your tax-deductible payment. Your contribution helps on many levels, including funding scholarships for students who demonstrate high achievements and potential.

Thank you for your support!



IS THERE SOMETHING YOU' D LIKE TO SEE IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER?

We aim to bring you high-quality, interesting news in our newsletters. If there is something you would like to see included, please e-mail Dr. Christina Chant at cchant@smcvt.edu. She will determine if it is appropriate for inclusion in a future newsletter. Thank you for reading!



Edited by Christina Chant, St. Michael's College
Here's to a beautiful spring!

VERMONT ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

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TO:

Visit us at www.vaas.us!