

VAAS Newsletter

SUMMER 2014

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VAAS Officers

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



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

It's time for the Fellows Luncheon! Join us September 13 at noon at the Windjammer in Burlington. More information on p. 6.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Academy enjoyed a very successful 2013 spring Intercollegiate Student Symposium at Norwich University in April with fifty varied presentations by students from five Vermont institutions of higher learning. We thank Trustees Kevin Fleming and Lauren Howard for all of the work they put in to make this happen. Next spring we plan to meet at Green Mountain College for the 2015 Student Symposium under the guidance of Trustee John Van Hoesen. Keep an eye on our website for details as this plan develops.

We elected four new Fellows at

our spring board of trustees meeting at St. Michael's College in Colchester: Paula Fives-Taylor, a microbiologist from South Burlington; David R. Huddle, an author and poet from Burlington; Reeve Lindbergh, a children's author, novelist and poet, from St. Johnsbury; and Bess O'Brien, a documentary filmmaker from Barnet. We hope to celebrate these new fellows at a noontime luncheon at the Windjammer Restaurant in Burlington on Saturday September 13, 2014. We have a beautiful room reserved, so I hope that all of you will be there.

I have been in touch with

Bennington College regarding our 50th anniversary conference on "The Future of Vermont." Fellow Bill McKibben has agreed to give the keynote address, and Fellow and former President of VAAS, Dan Bean, has agreed to give a luncheon talk on the history of the Academy. We are planning to have panels on the future of the arts and the sciences in Vermont and we hope to have musical and literary events to bring the conference to a close. We have tentatively chosen Saturday October 17, 2015 as the date.

Connell B. Gallagher,
President



2014 VAAS FELLOW NOMINATIONS by Connell Gallagher

VAAS Fellows “. . . 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 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, and such contribution must have been culminated, at least in its effect, since 1964.”

**Reeve Lindberg (Passumpsic, VT),
Author**

Reeve is the author of 21 books of mainly children’s literature, but also of memoirs, novels, poetry, and essays, including *View from the Kingdom*. She has been very active in arts and civic organizations in the St. Johnsbury area, was voted “Citizen of the Year” in her hometown, and received the Vermont Library Association Trustee Award for her 11 years of service, two as chair, of the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum board. The library director noted that Reeve was “generous and truly insightful—a tireless advocate who believed deeply in the importance of libraries.” She is the daughter of the famous Charles and Ann Morrow Lindbergh, about whom she has written.

David Huddle (Burlington, VT), Author

David is a professor emeritus of English at the University of Vermont. He has been actively writing and teaching for over 45 years, 38 of

writing and teaching for over 45 years, 38 of them at UVM where he taught English and Creative Writing. He has published 7 volumes of poetry, 10 novels, and a collection of essays, and has edited a collection of stories by others. He has been a frequent instructor at the Bread Loaf School of English, where he is the Robert Frost Professor of American literature. He was honored when Bread Loaf published *A David Huddle Reader* in 1994. In addition to books, Huddle has published widely in such magazines as *The New Yorker*, *Harper’s*, and *The New York Times Magazine*, and his work has been included in anthologies such as *The Best American Short Stories*. He is a frequent reader and lecturer throughout Vermont and in other places.

**Bess O’Brien (Barnet, VT), Filmmaker of
documentary films**

Bess is the Executive Director of Kingdom County Productions, which produces documentaries, feature films, and theatrical works “that explore the fabric, landscape and culture of Vermont.” Some of her subjects include: Teen bullying; foster care; and heroin use in Vermont. Her acclaimed films include *Ask Us Who We Are*, a powerful documentary about foster care in Vermont, *The Hungry Heart*, an intimate look at the often hidden world of prescription drug addiction in St. Albans, and *Shout It Out*, describing teen bullying. She has committed herself to distributing her work through screenings in public venues, at the state house, in schools, prisons, churches, etc.

Continued on next page

2014 Fellows, continued

Paula Fives-Taylor (South Burlington, VT), UVM Professor Emerita of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics

Professor Fives-Taylor joined the UVM faculty in 1972 as an instructor in the Department of Medical Microbiology. According to colleagues, she was a mentor for many faculty and students, had been highly successful in NIH funded research, and was a champion of undergraduate teaching. She received the Basic Science Teacher Award from the UVM College of Medicine, the UVM Kidder Award for being an outstanding faculty member, and the Vogelmann Award for outstanding research, among others. Professor Fives-Taylor has spent much of her career studying the organisms implicated in dental diseases and she has published over 150 papers in conference publications and in scholarly journals. She received a Merit Award from the National Institute of Dental Research for Sustained Excellence in Research.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW VAAS FELLOWS!



Clockwise from left: David Huddle, Bess O'Brien, Reeve Lindberg and Paula Fives-Taylor. All photos courtesy of the individuals pictured.

IN THE LYME-LIGHT II: PORTRAITS OF ILLNESS AND HEALING, by **Emily Bracale**

Rockland, ME: Maine Authors Publishing, 89 pp. 2014. \$22.95, ISBN 978-1-938883-94-1

It had been my pleasure to review the first (2011) edition of this important work by Maine artist and author, Emily Bracale, in the Spring 2011 issue of the *VAAS Newsletter*. At this time I wish to announce that a revised and substantially expanded edition has just appeared that also includes further reflections by the author on healing. Moreover, this second edition has been produced in a larger format that shows off both the old and new artwork to greater advantage. A brief description of this expanded revision follows.

In the Lyme-Light II is a godsend for the growing numbers of us who spend time outdoors and become infected with tick-borne Lyme disease (as I now have on two past occasions). The book is especially important for those suffering with an initially undiagnosed and thus long-term case of this insidious affliction. In a series of some three dozen insightful and powerfully touching interconnected essays, each enhanced by appropriate pieces of highly evocative accompanying artwork of her own, the author takes us through the various stages of confusing initial suffering, deep despair, diagnosis, tediously slow healing, and ultimate recovery of both body and mind. In short, this is a major addition to the Lyme disease literature for both the layperson and physician. Finally, the work closes with a most useful list of suggested further readings on diagnosis and treatment (including alternative approaches) and spiritual awakening.

Arthur H. Westing, Putney, Vermont

VAAS FELLOWS IN THE NEWS by
Connell Gallagher

Author and Middlebury College instructor, Julia Alvarez (2013), received the 2013 National Medal of the Arts from President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama at the White House on July 21, 2014. The citation for her award recognized her “extraordinary storytelling” and noted that “in poetry and prose, Ms. Alvarez explores themes of identity, family, and cultural divides. She illustrates the complexity of navigating two worlds and reveals the human capacity for strength in the face of oppression.”

Chris Bohjalian (2013) has published his 17th novel, *Close Your Eyes, Hold Hands*, with a high school girl, Elizabeth Shepard, as the narrator. Shepard is separated from her parents after a nuclear accident, and becomes homeless in Burlington.

There was a celebration of “The Life in Poetry of Galway Kinnell” (2001) at the Vermont State House in Montpelier on August 7, 2014. Kinnell was Vermont Poet Laureate from 1989-93 and has published over 30 books of poetry.

Judith Van Houten, George H. Perkins Professor of Biology at UVM, has been named the first recipient of the President’s Distinguished Citizenship and Service Award for her consistent and outstanding record of service over time to the university community. The award was presented by UVM President Tom Sullivan. In addition to teaching, Judy has been the long-time director of the Vermont Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR).

NORWICH UNIVERSITY HOSTS THE 48TH ANNUAL INTERCOLLEGIATE SYMPOSIUM by Kevin Fleming

On Saturday, April 26, 2014, an exceptional group of student scholars and their faculty mentors gathered at Norwich University to share their knowledge and talents. Outside it was overcast and rainy, but inside the air was bright and bristling with fifty students presenting works from musical compositions and poetry to research on beach balls, photons, and stars. Students, parents, and faculty came to Norwich University from five colleges across the State of Vermont including Saint Michael's College, Castleton State College, Marlboro College, Green Mountain College, and Norwich University. By 9 AM, the largest classroom at Norwich was filled to the brim with people and energy. The Dean of the College of Science and Mathematics, Dr. Michael McGinnis, kicked off the symposium by emphasizing the importance of shared research and scholarship to a well-rounded college experience. The student presenters, guests, and audience members then proceeded to six different classroom venues for more intimate gatherings based on topics of mutual interest. In one room, the audience was treated to a piano recital, poetry, and research on the stress-relieving powers of music and art. In another room, the terminal velocity of a beach ball was measured along with light beams, charged particles, and binary star systems. The Intercollegiate Symposium was truly a success, bringing together many of the best and brightest students from all academic areas of study to share ideas and works of art, breaking down barriers between institutions and disciplines. After the morning presentations, everyone gathered in the Wise Campus Center dining hall for lunch. The day was capped off with the awarding of certificates to all of the presenters. Vermont Academy of Arts and Sciences President, Connell Gallagher, congratulated each presenter to the lively applause of the guests in the audience. A group photo below shows how many scholars shared their talents and discoveries on this rainy but electrifying day in April.



IT'S TIME FOR THE 2014 FELLOWS LUNCHEON!

Join us for the 2014 Fall Fellows Luncheon at the Windjammer Restaurant in Burlington on Saturday Sept. 13th, 2014 at noon. We will be honoring the four new Fellows who are described on pp. 2-3. A lunch reservation form is included in this mailing; if you have misplaced it, please contact Connell Gallagher at cbgallag@uvm.edu to make reservations. Guests are welcome!



Edited by Christina Chant, St. Michael's College
Enjoy your summer!

VERMONT ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

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TO:

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