

VAAS Newsletter

SUMMER 2015

VOLUME 29, NUMBER 2

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 19 at noon at the Windjammer in Burlington. More information on p. 8.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In February of 1965, Lucien Hanks, a professor of anthropology at Bennington College got an idea. He wanted to create a Vermont Academy of Arts & Sciences to bring together the faculties of all of the colleges and universities in the state in order "to stimulate further achievement in the arts and sciences, to encourage youth to participate more actively in the arts and sciences, to increase the understanding and appreciation of learned matters by the general public, and to provide a more active role for the arts and sciences in the public life of the state." The result of his meetings with faculty from a number of the educational institutions in Vermont was the creation of the Academy in the fall of 1965. Its purpose has been to help Vermonters make fuller use of their cultural and intellectual

resources, primarily by sponsoring a wide variety of occasions that might bring together the knowledgeable and the curious, and by publishing works presented on those occasions. Its concerns, then, have been horizontal rather than vertical, interdisciplinary and broad rather than focused on a particular subject.

This fall's conference on "The Future of Vermont" to be presented at Bennington College on Saturday October 17, 2015 from 8:30 AM until 3 PM is typical for the Academy. Keynote speaker Professor Bill McKibben of Middlebury College will look at the fast-changing environment surrounding energy, conservation and sustainability over the short and long-term. An afternoon panel

will include Ellen McCulloch-Lovell, former director of the Vermont Arts Council and former president of Marlboro College; Middlebury professor of biology Grace Spatafora; and author, VPR commentator and former editor of *Vermont Life Magazine*, Tom Slayton. They will each respectively examine the state of the arts, sciences and humanities in Vermont going forward. Connie Price, founder and artistic director of the Essex Children's Choir, will present a concert focusing on "The Preservation of Vermont Folksong" to help celebrate this historic occasion. We look forward to seeing you all in Bennington in October. See the registration form in this newsletter to save your spot and for more information, including location.

Continued on p. 4

2015 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."

Robert Buckeye, Librarian and Author (Middlebury)

Bob Buckeye came to Vermont in 1971 as the Curator of the Abernathy Collection of American Literature and College Archivist at Middlebury College. His distinguished career spanned 32 years. During this time he ably built the collections, shared his love of writing through lectures and readings, and attracted numerous users among the faculty and students of the college as well as scholars from around the world. He created the famous Abernathy Lecture Series and oversaw this for 28 years before his retirement in 2003. In addition to his work as a librarian, Bob is also the author of 6 works of fiction and 18 chapbooks highlighting the lives of important but largely forgotten Vermonters. He is a former trustee and president of the VAAS.

Luis Batlle, Musician and Teacher (Marlboro)

Luis Batlle is a professional pianist and professor emeritus of music at Marlboro College. He came to the U.S. from Uruguay in the 1950s to study piano with Rudolf Serkin (founder of the Marlboro Festival) at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia, and was the first teacher of Serkin's son, pianist Peter Serkin. Luis was a regular participant at the summer Marlboro Festival since the middle of the 1950s, and was credited with having played more

concerts than any other player, including Serkin. During the winters he performed around the world, began teaching graduate students at Boston University, and also gave private lessons to Serkin's best students. He followed the great founder of the Brattleboro Music Center and VAAS Fellow Blanche Moyses as chair of the music department at Marlboro College and served in that position for thirty years. He was a splendid teacher, caring, humble and generous. The onset of Parkinson's disease forced him to give up this post.

Kate Pond, Sculptor (South Burlington)

"Burlington sculptor Kate Pond has created a body of work that encompasses universal principles of art and science. Her immense sculptures—found all over the world—invite engagement, as does she, still hard at work in her 70s." Her sculpture, *Kiss II*, was chosen in 1980 to enhance the new addition to the Fletcher Free Library in Burlington. After this, she began to conduct sculpture residencies, partly funded by the Vermont Arts Council, in Vermont schools. Her school residencies involved making sundials and integrating art and science into the curriculum. These sundials led to what she called the World Sculpture Project. She received an Art-in-Architecture Commission from the U.S. General Services Administration and installed a steel sculpture at the U.S. Port of Entry at Highgate Springs in 1997. This inspired five major pieces, each with a specific latitude and a focus on the marking of place and time. They are located in Stanstead, Que.; Oslo, Norway; Sendai, Japan; Honolulu, HI; and Nelson, NZ. The project earned her the 2008 Sawyer Dialing Prize from the North American Sundial Society. Equal parts function and elegance, Pond's sculptures enliven their environments in Vermont and across the world.

Karen Hesse, Author (Brattleboro)

Karen Hesse is the author of 23 children's and young adult books of fiction. Her best-known and *continued on next page*

2015 Fellows, continued

Newbery Award winning book, *Out of the Dust* (1989), tells the story of a girl living through the Dust Bowl in the Depression years. She tackled a more disturbing topic in 2001 with her verse novel, *Witness*. This story about the KKK in Vermont in the 1920s is written from 11 different points of view. One reviewer compared the book to works by composer Aaron Copeland and visual artist Edward Hopper. Hesse also wrote *The Music of Dolphins* about a girl who was raised by dolphins (1996); *Stowaway* (2000), based on the true story of a boy on one of Capt. James Cook's voyages in 1768; and *The Cats of Krasinski Square* (2004), which tells the story of life in the Warsaw Ghetto during World War II. The latter piece won an award for meticulous research. Asked why she writes for young readers, Hesse said that they are the most challenging, demanding and rewarding of audiences. Her tremendous output of outstanding novels merited a MacArthur Fellowship in 2002.

H. Nicholas Muller III, Vermont Historian (Essex, NY)

Dr. H. Nicholas Muller taught American and Vermont history at UVM from 1966-78, and he was a founder of the Center for Research on Vermont in 1975. He was Associate Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences and was the first Director of the Living/Learning Center at UVM. He left Vermont in 1978 to take on the Presidency of Colby-Sawyer College, and later became the Director of the Wisconsin Historical Society. His last post before retirement was as President of the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation. Muller has published seven books, six on Vermont, and 200 articles, mostly on Vermont topics in such journals as *Vermont History* (15) and *Vermont Life*. He was co-editor of *The Vermont Difference: Perspectives from the Green Mountain State* (2014) and co-author with VAAS Fellow John Duffy of *Inventing Ethan Allen* (2014). He served as editor of *Vermont History* from 1977-85. Nick has given decades of service to Vermont, and remains active in Vermont affairs, serving most recently as a trustee of the Vermont Historical Society. He was named as an Honorary Trustee of the Society a few years ago.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2015 VAAS FELLOWS!



Clockwise from top left: Luis Batlle, Kate Pond, Karen Hesse, H. Nicholas Muller III and Robert Buckeye.

VAAS 2015 BENNINGTON CONFERENCE
THE FUTURE OF VERMONT

BENNINGTON COLLEGE, CARRIAGE BARN
SATURDAY OCTOBER 17, 2015
FREE

REGISTRATION FORM:

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____

PHONE _____

NUMBER OF PERSONS:

MORNING COFFEE _____ BUFFET LUNCH _____

RETURN TO: CONNELL B. GALLAGHER, P.O. BOX 240, UNDERHILL, VT 05489 OR CONTACT
CONNELL AT CBGALLAG@UVM.EDU OR (802) 899-3034.

More information regarding the conference can be found on p. 9 of this Newsletter.



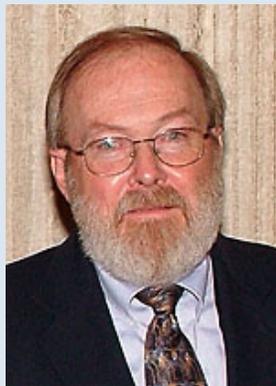
PRESIDENT'S REPORT, *cont. from p. 1*

Finally, we are all looking forward to the upcoming Fellows Luncheon, which will be held at the Windjammer Restaurant in Burlington on Saturday, September 19, 2015. Here we will induct five new Fellows: Sculptor Katie Pond of Burlington; Robert Buckeye, author and former Head of Special Collections and Archives at Middlebury College; children's and young adult author Karen Hess of Brattleboro; former UVM professor and Vermont historian H. Nicholas Muller III of Essex, N.Y.; and pianist Luis Battle, professor of music emeritus at Marlboro College. Please complete and return the registration form on p. 8 of this newsletter to inform us that you will be joining us at this enjoyable event.

Please also nominate for Fellow any colleagues, friends and acquaintances who have made valuable contributions to our life and culture in Vermont. We are particularly in need of worthy scientists.

We are also in need of additional members for the Fellows Committee and Board of Trustees. We invite members from every walk in life to broaden our perspectives. Send names and contact information directly to me.

Connell B. Gallagher,
President

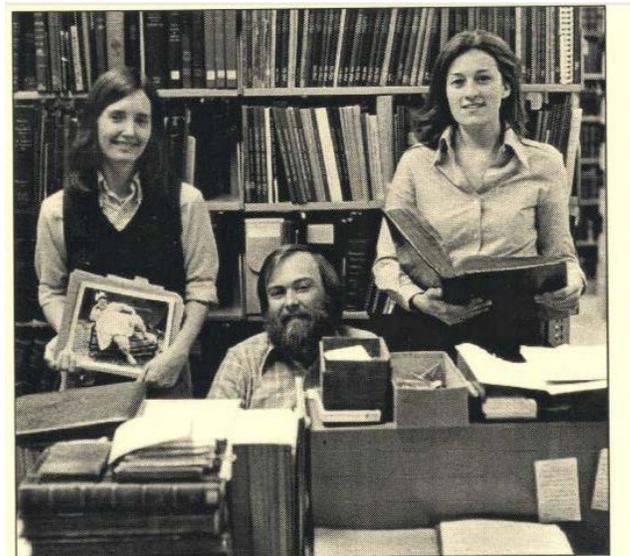


Connell Gallagher and Jeff Marshall

VAAS PRESIDENT HONORED WITH LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

by Lauren Howard

On May 6, 2015, the UVM Center for Research on Vermont presented Connell Gallagher with a Lifetime Achievement Award. "The Center recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the state of Vermont and who have had enduring, significant, and positive influences on the state, including our culture, civic life, research and educational institutions, and the daily lives of Vermonters." The presentation was made at a special dinner at the Waterman Building at the University of Vermont, which was attended by over 100 colleagues. Connell served as Manuscripts Librarian, University Archivist and Curator of Manuscripts, and Director of Research Collections during his 36-year tenure at UVM. He retired in 2006, but has remained active in many organizations, including the Vermont Academy of Arts and Sciences, for which he is a Fellow, Trustee, and current President. Many friends and colleagues gave testimonials, and Connell had the opportunity to thank the organization and relay a number of stories about his career at UVM.



Connell Gallagher and Special Collections staff members, late 1970s.

Photo from UVM Special Collections

VAAS FELLOW HONORED

by Connell Gallagher

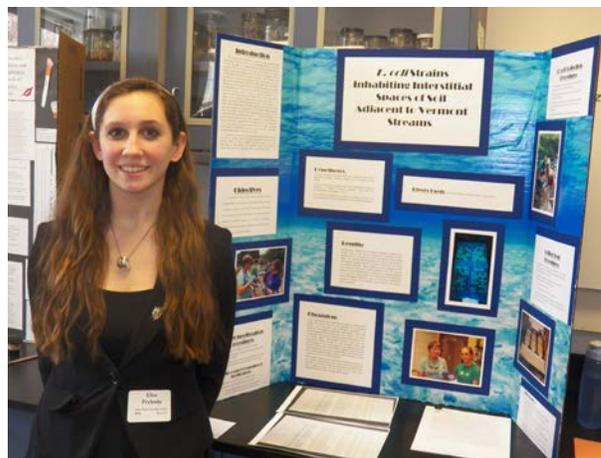
Printmaker and book artist Claire Van Vliet received the 2015 Herb Lockwood Prize in June at Burlington City Arts. The cash award is given annually to a Vermont artist. Van Vliet has lived in Newark, Vermont in the heart of the Northeast Kingdom for 50 years. She has produced over 100 handmade books at her Janus Press, and has collaborated with a number of Vermont artists in the process. “I have found a great deal of inspiration in working with Vermont artists.” Her books include work by Vermont poets Hayden Carruth, Galway Kinnell, Leland Kinsey and James Hayford to name a few. She has also worked with Peter and Elka Schumann making posters and books for the Bread and Puppet Domestic Resurrection Circus. In presenting the award, Todd Lockwood said, “To hold one of Claire’s books in your hands is a journey into a rarefied world.” Some years ago, Van Vliet was awarded the coveted MacArthur “genius” prize. She was elected as a Fellow of the Academy in the year 2000.



Photo taken from nmwa.org.

WINNER OF THE VAAS VERMONT STATE SCIENCE AND MATH FAIR AWARD SELECTED by Lauren Howard

On March 21, 2015, the Vermont State Science Fair was held at Norwich University in Northfield. The Vermont Academy of Arts and Sciences awards \$200 to the best senior presentation. Trustees Lauren and Judy Howard judged over a dozen poster presentations to come up with this year’s winner, Elise Prehoda, a senior at Rice Memorial High School. Her research project, entitled “*E. coli* strains inhabiting interstitial spaces of soil adjacent to Vermont streams”, searched for bacteria normally found in the digestive systems of mammals and birds living in soil outside the hosts. Bacteria were found along a number of streams adjacent to farmland, but no new strains were discovered. Elise will be attending college this fall.



Elise with her winning poster. Photo courtesy of Lauren Howard.

2015 STUDENT SYMPOSIUM A SUCCESS, by John Van Hoesen

On April 18th, 2015, the 49th Annual Vermont Academy of Arts and Sciences Student Symposium was held at Green Mountain College in Poultney, Vermont. Students from Norwich University, Marlboro College and Castleton State College submitted presentations, which resulted in almost thirty concurrent presentations between 9 AM to noon. The presentations covered a wide range of topics from the influence of media on body satisfaction, exploring the foundations of Buddhism, an analysis of leadership style during the Late Roman Republic to social media addiction and memory performance under stress. Following the symposium, students, faculty and the VAAS board shared a meal in GMC's dining hall and discussed the presentations.

DECEASED FELLOWS

by Connell Gallagher

Galway Kinnell, an American poet from Sheffield, Vermont, died at 87 on October 28, 2014. An admitted follower of Walt Whitman, Kinnell rejected the idea that poets should escape into the imagination. He was an activist; he protested for civil rights and fought against the wars in Vietnam and Iraq, and he argued against scarring the landscape of his beloved Northeast Kingdom. UVM poet Major Jackson noted that Kinnell "...was not afraid to explore the full range of emotion in his poems". He was born in Rhode Island and graduated from Princeton with a master's degree from the University of Rochester. He went to Paris on a Fulbright Fellowship in the 1950s. He won both a Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award for his *Selected Poems* (1983), and a McArthur "Genius" Fellowship in 1984 while teaching at New York University, where he was the Eric Maria Remarque Professor of Creative Writing. Kinnell was a Chancellor of the American Academy of Poets and was the Vermont State poet from 1989-93, the first to hold that title since Robert Frost. Like Frost, Kinnell spoke to the residents of his rural state. He was elected as a Fellow of the Vermont Academy of Arts & Sciences in 2001.



Dr. Jane Richardson Hanks of North Bennington, Vermont died on Sunday July 27, 2014. She was 105 years old. Jane led an inspiring and energetic life that took her around the world and into the hearts of many. She was one of the first women anthropologists. She received a B.A. from the University of California and a Ph.D. in Anthropology from Columbia University, where she studied under the famous Ruth Benedict. Her dissertation was titled, "Law and Status among the Kiowa Indians of Oklahoma." She married fellow anthropologist and founder of the Vermont Academy of Arts & Sciences Lucien Hanks in 1938, and co-authored *Tribe Under Trust: A Study of the Blackfoot Reserve of Alberta* with him. Later the two wrote *Of Rice and Man* and *Tribes of the North Thailand Frontier* based on their time in Thailand in the 1960s. Jane was a warm, generous and charitable person, a respected member of her community, and a loving mother in addition to being a noted anthropologist and a good violinist. She was very active in the affairs of the Vermont Academy of Arts & Sciences and was elected as a Fellow in 1992.

VERMONT ACADEMY OF ARTS & SCIENCES 2015 FELLOWS INDUCTION LUNCHEON

The Academy will celebrate the induction of five 2015 Fellows on September 19, 2015: Karen Hesse (Author), Robert Buckeye (Librarian and Author), Luis Batlle (Pianist), Kate Pond (Sculptor), and H. Nicholas Muller III (Historian). Please join us.

LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM:

Lunch at the Windjammer Restaurant, 1076 Williston Road, South Burlington, VT, 05403, to be held on Saturday, September 19, 2015 at 12:00 PM. For more information, call the Windjammer at (802) 862-6585.

Lunch will be served with vegetarian, meat and fish choices, all of which include a fulsome salad bar. Please specify the number of dinners for each option.

Lunch is \$25 each for VAAS paid-up members and \$30 for nonmembers.*

Choices:

Salmon_____ Chicken Teriyaki Breast_____ Vegetarian_____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Make checks payable to VAAS (Vermont Academy of Arts & Sciences). DEADLINE for luncheon reservations is Friday, September 12, 2015. Mail checks to: Connell Gallagher, P.O. Box 240, Underhill, VT 05489. Phone: (802) 899-3034; e-mail: cbgallag@uvm.edu.

* The Academy is underwriting part of the luncheon for members whose dues fees are current and paid. New members will receive this savings as well if they join VAAS before the reservation deadline. Just add \$25.00 (or \$35.00 for a family membership) to your meal purchase, or write a separate membership check for \$25.00/\$35.00. New Fellows and a guest are free.



VAAS BENNINGTON CONFERENCE

Date: Saturday October 17, 2015

Location: Bennington College, Deane Carriage Barn (a map of the campus can be found on the Bennington College website). Directions: FROM THE NORTH: Take Route U.S. & to exit 1 for VT 279 West/Bennington Connector and stay to the right. Take the VT 67A exit toward Bennington. At the end of the exit ramp (at light), take left onto Route 67A North/North Bennington Road. Follow for less than a mile. After a second set of lights (after Home Depot on Right and Hampton Inn on left), the College entrance is on the right. Turn right, through the gates, onto College Drive. Follow College Drive up the hill and look for signs to the Carriage Barn.

Title: “The Future of Vermont”

To register, please complete and submit the registration form included in the newsletter. If you have misplaced the form, please contact Connell Gallagher at cbgallag@uvm.edu. Thank you!

- 8:30 Registration and Coffee
- 9:00 Welcome: Dean Isabel Roche, Bennington College
Connell B. Gallagher, VAAS President
- 9:15 Keynote: Bill McKibben, “The Environment”
- 10:30 Break
- 11:00 Essex Children’s Choir Recital: “Preservation of Vermont Folksong.”
- Noon Lunch
- 2:00 Arts, Sciences & Humanities in Vermont; Connell Gallagher, UVM, Chair
Arts: Ellen McCulloch-Lovell, Marlboro Coll.
Science: Grace Spatafora, Middlebury College
Humanities: Tom Slayton, former *Vermont Life* editor
- 3:30 VAAS Annual Membership Meeting

Of potential interest to VAAS members: The American Academy for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) has made Trellis (trelliscience.com) available to our organization. Trellis is “a new professional network that makes it easy for scientific groups of any size to come together to collaborate online. Trellis supports public and private groups with features such as newsfeeds, discussions, shared document libraries, shared event calendars, and more. You can also arrange groups into hierarchies of subgroups to reflect the different configurations of your projects.” AAAS will be using Trellis to support interactions both with and among their members. You are invited to use Trellis to do the same for VAAS. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Josh Freeman, the founding general manager of Trellis, at jfreeman@aaas.org or (202) 236-9559. He would be happy to give you a demonstration of Trellis and discuss how you might best be able to leverage this new service. (This is not an endorsement of Trellis; Connell Gallagher received this from Josh and thought it would be of interest to you. We have not received payment in any form to advertise this service and have not yet tried it ourselves. If you try it and like it, please let us know!)

IT' S TIME FOR THE 2015 FELLOWS LUNCHEON!

Join us for the 2015 Fall Fellows Luncheon at the Windjammer Restaurant in Burlington on Saturday Sept. 19th, 2015 at noon. We will be honoring the five 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 the rest of your summer!

VERMONT ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

VAAS President Connell Gallagher
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Underhill, VT 05489

TO:

Come visit us at www.vaas.us!