

VERMONT ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

VASE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015-16

The first, and largest, VASE event of the year was the annual meeting and public forum, held in UVM's Davis Auditorium on September 25, 2015, and attended by some 60 VASE members, honorees, guests, and the general public. The meeting began with a moment of silence in memory of VASE founding member Paula Fives-Taylor, who passed away in January 2015. The keynote speaker for the evening was Dr. Rush Holt, Ph.D. physicist, eight-term Congressman from New Jersey, and now the CEO of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and Executive Publisher of Science. Dr. Holt gave a thought-provoking talk, "Advancing Science," that stimulated numerous questions and lively discussion.

Prior to Dr. Holt's talk, VASE Outreach Coordinator Grace Spatafora presented the annual VASE Awards for Outstanding Teaching in Science. This year's awardees were (Grades K-8): Patricia Preseault, from the Fisher Elementary School, Arlington, and (Grades 9-12): Brian Slopey, from U-32 High School, Montpelier. The awardees each received an engraved plaque as well as a check for \$1000.

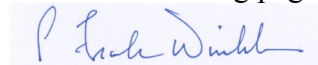
Following the meeting, VASE members, honorees, and guests reconvened for dinner in UVM's Waterman Manor. We welcomed four new members: Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux, UVM Prof of Geography and the Vermont State Climatologist, David Haramé of Global Foundries (formerly IBM) of Essex Junction, John O'Meara, astrophysicist from St. Michael's College, and Jim Vigoreaux, cell biologist from UVM. After dinner, both of the science teacher awardees gave some personal remarks.

VASE's most important outreach program is our Small Equipment Grants, made to Vermont K-12 educators. In 2015 we received 17 proposals, almost all of them well developed and highly deserving. We were able to fund an unprecedented number: eleven of these, with a funding total of \$10,161, thanks in part to generous donations from VASE members which enabled us to fund several more grants than would otherwise have been possible. A list of grantees follows this report.

Many of the grantees were able to attend the spring VASE meeting on May 26 at Waterman Manor. All had prepared informal presentations—demonstrations, videos, etc.—illustrating how they had used their grant funds and the response of their students. VASE members and guests found these uniformly creative and stimulating, and we came away with a renewed sense of the energy Vermont's teachers bring to our schools. The more formal part of the program consisted of excellent short talks by new members Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux and Jim Vigoreaux, introducing the audience to their research.

An important milestone this year for VASE was gaining recognition from the IRS as a 501(c)(3) organization, the culmination of a process that has gone on for some years. This clears the way for donors to receive tax-exempt treatment of donations to VASE, and no doubt played a role in making it possible to expand the Small Equipment Grant program this year. In the same administrative theme, in August VASE and UVM concluded negotiations and signed a Services Agreement that formalizes the relationship between VASE and the University regarding accounting, website hosting, and facilities access. UVM Vice President for Research (and VASE member) Richard Galbraith was instrumental in bringing this agreement into being. Both the new IRS status and the UVM agreement represent significant milestones in the life of VASE as an institution.

Recipients of VASE Small Equipment grants are listed below, and the financial report for 2015 is on the following page.



P. Frank Winkler
 Gamaliel Painter Bicentennial Professor Emeritus of Physics
 VASE President
 July 29, 2016

VASE Small Equipment Grants, 2015

Lead Teacher/Proposer	School	Town
Asam, Kym	East Meadow School (K-12)	Morrisville
Deyo, Adam	Smith Elementary (K-5)	Burlington
Diedrich, Scott	Manchester Elementary/Middle School (K-8)	Manchester
Gauvin, Marcia	Woodstock Elementary (K-6)	Woodstock
Jolly, Megan	Albany Middle School	Albany
Robeck, Cara	VT Energy Education Program	Statewide
Schoembs, Eric	Edmunds Middle School	Burlington
Tinson, Allison	Flynn Elementary (grade 3)	Burlington
Tyler, Melissa	Lyndon Institute (9-12)	Lyndon Center
Walters, Shannon	Integrated Arts @ Wheeler	Burlington
Windhausen, Lisa	Browns River Middle School	Jericho

**Vermont Academy of Science and Engineering
Financial Report
July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016**

Date	For/From	Income	Budget	Actual	Balance
7/1/15	Beginning Balance				\$ 868.20
	Transfer from Technology Council	\$ 13,500.00			
	Fall Meeting/Forum				
	Travel expenses for speaker, Rush Holt			\$ 340.10	
	Honorarium to speaker, Rush Holt			\$ 500.00	
	Catering costs			\$ 2,602.35	
	Conference & Events charge			\$ 135.20	
	Physical Plant charges			\$ 59.97	
	Certificate frames, etc.			\$ 143.61	
	Contributions from members	\$ 1,150.00			
	Total Meeting/Forum			\$ 3,781.23	
	Net Meeting/Forum		\$ 2,300.00	\$ 2,631.23	
	Teacher of the Year Awards		\$ 2,400.00		
	Two awards @ \$1000			\$ 2,000.00	
	Engraved Plaques			\$ 142.64	
	Small Equipment Grant Awards to Teachers				
	7 @ \$1000		\$ 7,000.00		
	Browns River Middle School			\$ 1,158.00	
	Vermont Energy			\$ 1,000.00	
	Burlington School District			\$ 599.00	
	Burlington School District			\$ 648.00	
	Northeastern			\$ 1,000.00	
	Lyndon Institute			\$ 996.00	
	Burlington School District			\$ 1,000.00	
	Town of Woodstock			\$ 916.00	
	City of Burlington			\$ 790.00	
	Albany Community			\$ 1,065.00	
	Total Grant awards*			\$ 9,172.00	
	Member contribution to support grants	\$ 2,500.00			
	Spring Meeting Expenses		\$ 800.00	\$ 551.88	
	Accounting and Legal expenses		\$ 1,000.00		
	Filing fee for 501(c)(3)			\$ 400.00	
	Tapia & Huckabay (accounting)			\$ 375.00	
	Totals 6/30/2016	\$ 17,150.00		\$ 16,422.75	\$ 1,595.45

*In addition to the grants listed, a member gift directly funded one more, \$990 to Manchester Elementary/Middle School.