

The Martha's Vineyard Vision Fellowship program honors Islanders who are passionate about the social and environmental sustainability of Martha's Vineyard. The Vision Fellowship's financial awards help individuals pursue additional knowledge and skills to enhance their work for the Island's nonprofit and progressive for-profit organizations.



A RESOURCE FOR ISLANDERS SINCE 2005

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROGRAM, THE FELLOWS AND THE APPLICATION PROCESS SEE [VINEYARDDVISION.ORG](http://VINEYARDDVISION.ORG)

**HELLO, 2018 MARTHA'S VINEYARD VISION FELLOWS!**



The 2018 class of Vision Fellows during a stop at the Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group's Hughes Hatchery at their Vision Fellowship orientation last June. From left to right, Jill De La Hunt, Scott Goldin, Jean Cabonce, Faren Worthington, Hallie D'Angelo, Molly Peach Mayhew, Matteus Scheffer, Peg Regan, John Goncalves, Theo Gallagher, Otto Osmer and Mary Sage Napolitan (not pictured Ryan Kent, Rachaya Lane Jette) To find out more about the new Fellows and what they are up to, visit [www.vineyardvision.org](http://www.vineyardvision.org).

**THE VISION FELLOWSHIP'S NEW ADVISORY COUNCIL**

The Martha's Vineyard Vision Fellowship is excited to announce the formation of an Advisory Council to the Vision Fellowship Grants Committee. The Council's purpose is two-fold. First, the group will research and conduct outreach regarding top Island needs and issues that are underserved or unmet. Second, the group will propose ways that the Vision Fellowship, within its fellowship-based grant model, may advance progress on those needs and issues. The Council will operate on a one-year trial basis which will culminate with a presentation of findings to the Vision Fellowship community in August 2019.

Kendra Buresch (Fellow 2015), Valci Carvalho (Fellow 2007), Josh Gothard (Fellow 2017) Luanne Johnson (Mentor 2009, Fellow 2015), April Knight (Fellow 2016), and Antone Lima (Fellow 2009) are the members of the inaugural Advisory Council. See page 2 for more details.

## Advisory Council cont.

Each Council member is an expert in his or her field. They are all broad-minded and contributive thinkers. They bring unique knowledge and skills that will help to effectively inform and guide upcoming grant-making decisions by the Vision Fellowship Grants Committee.

Because the Vision Fellowship's sustainability areas of interest for grant-making are based largely on the Martha's Vineyard Commission's 2009 Island Plan, the Advisory Council's first task is to review the Island Plan to assess recommendations therein that have not yet been, or have been only partially, implemented. In this assessment, the Council's mission is to be forward thinking about the Island's sustainability in these areas of interest and also reflective about what has been working and what has not. This will enable the Council to make recommendations to the Grants Committee on the issues and needs that would most benefit from Vision Fellowship support. Advisory Council members also are charged with using an integrated approach to address multiple overlapping issues wherever possible.

This Advisory Council marks year one of a larger process to strengthen and enrich the Vision Fellowship program and the Vision Fellowship community. If you are seriously interested in participating at a similar level, there will be other opportunities in future years. Bear in mind that an important criteria for the Grants Committee's outreach is active participation in the Vision Fellowship community.

**The Martha's Vineyard Vision Fellowship is dedicated to encouraging a healthy and vibrant Vineyard future by investing in promising individuals who demonstrate a commitment to the Island and to the ideals of sustainability. The Vision Fellowship supports people seeking to enhance their understanding of the challenges to the Island's environment and social fabric with the goal of helping them become effective leaders in maintaining the unique nature of Martha's Vineyard for future generations.**

## ALL ABOARD THE ALABAMA!



On a beautiful, calm September evening, forty Vision Fellowship community members enjoyed a harbor sail aboard the Black Dog Tall Ships' schooner, the Alabama. Casey Blum (photo center, black cap), Vision Fellow 2017, and the Black Dog's first female captain, was along for the ride, before heading back to the University of New Hampshire where she is completing her Master's Degree in Social Work and Kinesiology: Outdoor Education.

## NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Vision Fellows have been busy across the board since last January's newsletter. The Fellows highlighted here have achieved especially impressive milestones.



**Sammi Chaves (Vision Fellow 2014)** graduated from Wheaton College in Norton, MA, in May, where she majored in Biology. Wheaton's liberal arts structure allowed her not only to explore courses in her field of study, but also to enroll in unique courses outside of her major. Sammi left Wheaton feeling excited for what is to come and feels well prepared for her next steps in the "science world." This fall, Sammi is interning for the New England Aquarium as a Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Rescue intern. She is most looking forward to working with their sea turtle patients. As a Vision Fellow, Sammi interned for the Great Pond Foundation, the National Marine Life Center in Buzzards Bay, MA, BiodiversityWorks, and Marine Mammals of Maine in Harpswell, ME. She also was awarded a Vision Fellowship Opportunity Grant to become open water scuba certified, which she did last May.

**Jacqueline Menton (Vision Fellow 2014)** earned a BA in psychology with a minor in sociology from Clark University in May. As an undergraduate, Jacqueline studied abroad in Berlin, Germany, joined two psychology research labs (the motivation of children and language acquisition in children), and interned at Clark's counseling center. Jacqueline is now gaining more clinical experience, before returning to school for a doctorate in psychology. She has been hired as a Special Education Teacher's Assistant for kindergarten and first grade at Summit Street Elementary School in Burlington, VT. In addition to internships with Martha's Vineyard Community Services during her Fellowship, Jacqueline spent every July as camp counselor at the Martha's Vineyard Cerebral Palsy camp. "Through Camp Jabberwocky, I have found a passion for enriching the lives of people with disabilities," she reports.



**Luiza Mouzinho (Vision Fellow 2014)** earned dual Master of Arts Degrees in Mental Health Counseling and Theology and Ministry from Boston College. She interned for the Island Counseling Center during some summer breaks, providing interpreting and clinical services primarily for the Brazilian population. During her time in Boston, Luiza developed clinical experience with various and diverse populations, including adults struggling with addictions, severe mental illness, and trauma. She also worked intensively with children and families with behavioral, emotional, and mental health needs. Upon earning her degrees, Luiza has returned to the Island Counseling Center and is working as the only Portuguese speaking clinician currently on staff. She hopes that in addition to providing clinical services, she can also collaborate on cultural competency trainings and outreach to the Brazilian community.

**Sophie Ulyatt (Vision Fellow 2014)** graduated from Simmons College in August with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She reports that "[T]hese past four years have been the best and most terrifying years of my life. I would like to extend a big thank you to the Vineyard Vision Fellowship for my success and their steady support throughout my four years at Simmons College. I also am forever grateful for the experiences that the Martha's Vineyard Hospital staff gave me in my journey to become a nurse." Sophie's time at Simmons College has instilled in her a strong desire and passion for nursing and she is confident that, as a practicing nurse, her hard work will pay off in such a rewarding way. Her next step is to prepare for the NCLEX exam.



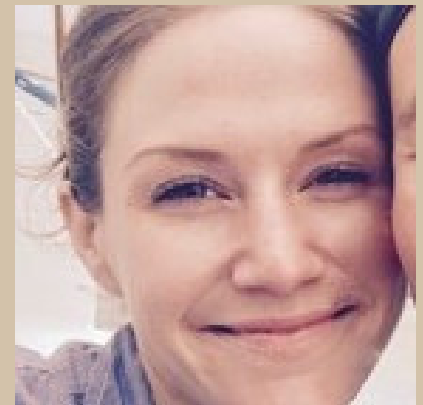
## NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS cont.

**Brian Morris (Vision Fellow 2015)**, received his Master's in Rehabilitation Counseling in May from UMass Boston, the same day he completed CCAR's Recovery Coach Training for the Emergency Room in Rocky Hill, CT. On his recent professional milestones, Brian says, "I was able to do both because the Martha's Vineyard Vision Fellowship saw fit to fund both endeavors so that I might be better equipped to deal with our island's AOD (alcohol and other drugs) issues. I have worked hard this past summer to put these milestone accomplishments to work for me, and for the populations I hope to continue serving: those beset by substance use disorders here on the Cape & Islands. As both a Recovery Coach and now as a Rehabilitation Counselor, I will continue to meet people "where they are" and am now more empowered to help them get "where they need to go"....in the right direction on the road to a lasting and impactful recovery."



**Kara Shemeth (Vision Fellow 2016)** earned her Graduate Degree in Environmental Policy and Management from American Public University in August. "For my final project I was able to add to the island's tick data by performing tick counts at several locations and designing a study that can be repeated to easily track tick population density on these sites," says Kara. "My degree focused on aspects of public policy and I plan to use my knowledge in my current job as a project surveyor as an advocate for conservation when developing projects for clients. Perhaps in the future I will use it in a more permanent capacity working towards more conservation goals on the island. This experience was a whirlwind and I would not be where I am without the support of my family and the Fellowship. Being a part of the Fellowship community has opened doors and led me to mentors I never would have met had it not been for this group and I am constantly reminded what an honor it is to be a Vision Fellow."

**Sara Townes (Vision Fellow 2016)** earned a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Southern California Suzanne Dworek-Peck School of Social Work, with a concentration in children, youth, and families in August. Through her field placement internship at the Island Counseling Center, the outpatient mental health program of Martha's Vineyard Community Services, Sara has implemented and facilitated a DBT process group, Emerge, for adolescent females, between 14 and 18 years of age; all of which have been struggling with generalized anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation, and, non-suicidal self-injury. Sara has accepted a full-time position at the Island Counseling Center as an out-patient mental health clinician and urgent care provider and will continue to facilitate the Emerge support group. In coming months, she will complete the Licensed Clinical Social Work (LCSW) exam, and after performing the required hours of clinical supervision, she will sit for the Independent Licensing exam (LICSW).



**Josh Gothard (Vision Fellow 2017)** received his Master's in Architecture from Parsons School of Design in May, where his thesis focused on increasing the environmental and economic resiliency of Vineyard Haven and its waterfront. Since completing the Architectural Experience Program, Josh has been in the process of taking his architectural registration exams. Josh has presented his thesis to various community groups and town officials on the Vineyard, aiming to highlight areas of improvement which, up until now, have been overlooked in future town planning. This community outreach has also aligned with the creation of a non-profit group focusing on preserving Vineyard Haven's working waterfront.

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Whether near or far, Vision Fellow alums are resources for other Fellows and for the Island community. To see more, visit the website.

### IN THEIR OWN WORDS:



#### VALCI CARVALHO, VISION FELLOW 2007:

I graduated from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree (PharmD.) in May of 2012. Since then, I returned to Martha's Vineyard and went on to work with Dr. David Caron, Jr at the Martha's Vineyard Hospital, who was my mentor during my time as a fellow. I also worked with Dr. Tamara Hersh at Conroy Apothecary. Curiously, Conroy was also the place where I was introduced to the woman whom I would eventually marry. Today, I continue practicing at our community hospital, where I have taken an expanded role to become the department's informatics expert, in addition to my clinical staffing work. I am proud to say that the community-focused work that Dr. Caron

and I started during my time with the Fellowship has continued through other established initiatives. I also have had the opportunity serve as a Junior Pastor at the Alliance Community Church. As I look back, I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to be a fellow. What I experienced because of it laid a foundation that I will carry with me for the rest of my life.



#### MATT COFFEY, VISION FELLOW 2008:

The Fellowship was an opportunity for me to explore our responsibilities and potential within the built environment. Through the Fellowship, I studied at the Ecosa Institute, became an LEED accredited professional, and had the opportunity to attend remarkable workshops. In Australia, I attended a two week intensive with Pritzker Prize winning architect Glenn Murcutt and spent a week in the jungle of Costa Rica studying the principles of biomimicry. South Mountain Company sponsored my mentorship. Now, as an Architect with the company, I have the opportunity to collaborate with an incredible team including designers, engineers, and craftsmen unified by common values. Our approach to architecture, construction, and business is based in a holistic understanding of the required balance

between the natural and built environments. Volunteering with The Island Housing Trust Development Committee has been a remarkable opportunity. We are working to elevate affordable housing efforts with the quality and volume we need to keep our island vibrant. Architecture is opportunity. Our future is strengthened through progressive design that embraces the social and environmental logic of our time and place. Through our work we bolster the resiliency of the island as we navigate the evolution of sustainable design." At South Mountain, Matt and others have recently gotten under way on an exciting project for Camp Jabberwocky. To read more about it, visit Matt's biography page at the Vision Fellowship website.



#### NOLI TAYLOR, VISION FELLOW 2007:

I have had the pleasure of pursuing a program through the Vision Fellowship that engages some of my greatest passions in life: helping create sustainable, locally-based food systems and being an effective leader of community organizations. As a "mid-career professional" in the Fellowship, I followed a less traditional course of education by taking short courses off-Island and bringing that knowledge home. I focused my Fellowship around supporting our local food system through learning about Permaculture, teaching and nonprofit management, and paired up with Island Grown Initiative (IGI) in the hopes that my studies could help us develop a farm-to-school program in my second Fellowship year. My two years of Fellowship-sponsored agricultural conferences, Permaculture Design and teacher

trainings, fundraising workshops, board development trainings, visits to other farm-to-school programs and more, gave me a foundation that has helped our IGI team create an incredible program, Island Grown Schools (IGS). We have now put in learning gardens at all seven K-12 schools on the island, and an inter-generational garden at Woodside Village, an Island Elderly Housing complex for low-income seniors. In 2012 we launched Island Grown Pre-Schools, and are working with five island pre-schools to bring garden-based learning, local food, and nutrition education to our youngest island students. We also run three after school gardening and nutrition programs. We work with food service directors at all island schools, and now six of seven schools regularly buy food from island farms for school lunches. We work with teachers at all of our schools and at every grade level to help them develop and integrate curriculum-based lessons on food, farms, and agriculture. In the fall

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**NOLI TAYLOR, CONT.:**

of 2009, we launched a “gleaning” program to harvest food from island farms that would not otherwise be harvested, and to date this program has delivered more than 35,000 pounds of fresh produce to our school cafeterias and to islanders in need. The program is helping us raise a new generation of Vineyarders with the skills to create food security for themselves, their families and our community; with an appreciation and an understanding of the importance of local food systems, and an awareness about the power of eating fresh foods for health, the environment, and our local farming community. As the coordinator of Island Grown Schools, I get to put all that I’ve learned through my time in the Fellowship to work in making our program a success — plus, the Vision Fellowship helped me find a job that I love here on the island! I couldn’t feel more grateful or excited about what the Fellowship has allowed me to do, and for what it’s doing for our community.

**VISION FELLOWSHIP AREAS OF INTEREST**

*The Martha's Vineyard Vision Fellowship enables passionate and hard-working people committed to the Island's overall sustainability to pursue undergraduate and graduate education and professional development for the mutual benefit of themselves and the Island community. The Vision Fellowship also enables motivated people to undertake innovative projects that fall within the Vision Fellowship's sustainability areas of interest. These interest areas are derived largely from the Martha's Vineyard Commission's Island Plan. They include: Affordable Housing; Alternative and Renewable Energy; Conservation and Biodiversity; Education, including Environmental Education; Health Care (including Mental Health), Social Services and Elder Services; Island Cultures; Shellfish and Fishery Management and Conservation; Sustainable Agriculture; Sustainable Architecture/Built Environment; Water (including Nitrogen Management and Water Resources); and Waste (including Composting and Recycling).*

**VISION FELLOWS OUT AND ABOUT**



Faren Worthington, Philippe Jordi, Hallie D'Angelo, Jonah Maidoff and Rick Karney studying Josh Gothard's architectural model of the Vineyard Haven harborfront adapted for climate change impacts at the July Vision Fellowship gathering.



Emma Green-Beach (and Oden), Molly Peach Mayhew and Liz Baldwin at the Vision Fellowship gathering in July.



Irene Bright-Dumm, Jill De La Hunt, Hallie D'Angelo (and Margaret, her mom) aboard the Alabama on September 16th.



James Robinson, with some members of his summer basketball training camp.

## LAST BUT NOT LEAST: FOOD WASTE PROJECT UPDATE

Each year, at significant environmental and monetary costs, the Vineyard's freight boats carry 19,000 tons of trash off-Island for shipment to landfills and incinerators. Almost 40% of this trash stream is food waste, which could and should be diverted: to food equity programs for Islanders; to feed Island animals; and to an Island-based, yet to be built, composting facility that will provide soil enriching compost for Island farms. The very nature of our Island as a self-contained entity makes it not only possible but imperative for us to rescue our food waste from the trash stream and use it for good.

Since December 2015, the Martha's Vineyard Vision Fellowship has sponsored the Island-wide Organics Waste Management Feasibility Study Oversight Committee (the "Food Waste Committee") to undertake a comprehensive study (the "Study") to identify the most sustainable and Island-appropriate way to manage food waste on the Island. The full study is available at <http://vineyardvision.org/island-wide-food-waste-composting-feasibility-study-completed/>.

The committee members for the study's first phase were Don Hatch (Director of the Martha's Vineyard Refuse Disposal and Resource Recovery District (MVRD)), Michael Loberg (chairman of Tisbury Board of Health), Chris Murphy (Chilmark Conservation Commission and former MV Commission member), Jon Previant (previously Executive Director of The Farm Institute), Richard Toole (previously Vineyard Conservation Society board president), and Keith Wilda (previously Farm Hub Director at Island Grown Initiative). Sophie Abrams served as project manager for the initial study.

As part of the Study, the Food Waste Committee ranked six technologies according to costs, potential job and revenue creation, social and environmental impact, and other relevant criteria. This assessment concluded that in-vessel (or rotary drum) composting is best suited as the Island-wide solution to our food waste problem.

As a next step, and with the Vision Fellowship's continued support, the Food Waste Committee commissioned a Business Plan for Recycling Food Waste on Martha's Vineyard (the "Business Plan") to identify the infrastructure investment and the projected operating costs to process food waste on-Island. For the project's second phase, two new members have joined the Food Waste Committee: Rebecca Haag, Executive Director at Island Grown Initiative (IGI) and Matt Poole, Edgartown Health Agent. Sophie Abrams, in her role as Food Equity and Recovery Director at IGI, also participates. The full plan is available at <http://vineyardvision.org/Food-Waste-Business-Plan>. Ultimately, the Island's solution to its food waste problem will likely entail public-private partnerships, state grants, and philanthropic investment.

From here, in addition to public policy and advocacy work, the Food Waste Committee is focusing on pilot projects to demonstrate the necessity and the viability of food waste separation, collection and composting. Pilot projects for food waste recycling are important because they educate; they help build the infrastructure for the anticipated solution; they provide examples of possible business models for food waste collection; and they can help normalize the process of source separating food waste, so that it becomes business as usual.

In 2017, Island Grown Initiative absorbed the restaurant food waste pick up program, which began as a pilot of the initial Study. They began charging a nominal fee and expanded the program to include residents in addition to restaurants. In 2017, they collected 80 tons of food waste, a five-time increase over 2016 numbers, and brought in \$16,500 in revenue. Now called Island Food Rescue, this project has shown that there is demand/receptivity for source separation of food waste and that fees can be charged.

The following pilots, among others, are currently under active consideration: a tub grinder to be located at a farm that would grind food and cardboard down to more uniform sizes to help with the composting process; a bigger truck for Island Grown Initiative so that it can expand its pick up (currently they have had to turn away restaurants that want to participate because the truck is not big enough); the development of a concentrated seasonal pick-up route in Edgartown; the placement of on-site heat stabilization processing units in more rural locations (because they need to be emptied less frequently); and a black soldier fly project that converts food waste into animal feed. State and private funding will be sought for pilot projects.

For more information and to see how you can help, please contact me at [hackney@vineyardvision.org](mailto:hackney@vineyardvision.org) or Sophie Abrams at [sophie@igimv.org](mailto:sophie@igimv.org).