

SINCE 2005, A FELLOWSHIP-BASED GRANTS PROGRAM FOR ISLANDERS COMMITTED TO THE VINEYARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY



SEE WWW.VINEYARDDVISION.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROGRAM, THE FELLOWS, AND HOW TO APPLY

VISION FELLOWSHIP ADVISORY COUNCIL SHEPHERDS PROPOSALS FOR 2020 VISION FELLOWSHIPS



Rick Karney, Jonah Maidoff, Tom Chase and David Vanderhoop at an Advisory Council presentation



Shelley Edmundson, Jill De La Hunt, Luiza Mouzinho and Lynn Ditchfield at an Advisory Council presentation

Since first convening in September 2018, the Advisory Council to the Vision Fellowship Grants Committee has researched and conducted community outreach to assess underserved Island needs that had potential to be addressed through the Vision Fellowship grant model. The Council also sought input and advice from the Vision Fellowship community through presentations and individual meetings.

The culmination of the Council's work is a handful of Vision Fellowship proposals that will be vetted by the Grants Committee for 2020 Vision Fellowship awards. The Advisory Council members, Kendra Buresch, Shelley Edmundson, Josh Gothard, Luanne Johnson, April Knight, Antone Lima and Luiza Mouzinho, currently are working with stakeholders to prepare final proposals for submission by the December 12th due date for nominations for the 2020 Vision Fellowship program.

Several of the potential projects are described here.

Problem: Construction Waste. Each year, construction and demolition waste comprises almost 40% our waste stream and is shipped off-Island to be burned, rather than recycled.

Proposed solution: Establish an Island-based Building Waste Re-Use Center to reduce the amount of waste shipped off-Island and burned, and also to provide a means to reuse materials here. A Vision Fellow

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ADVISORY COUNCIL CONT.

would conduct a feasibility study and develop a business plan to create a new construction waste system for the Island, in collaboration with a working group of stakeholders.

Problem: Lack of Infant Childcare. Families with infants and toddlers do not have access to affordable, high quality childcare because of a very limited availability of caregivers qualified to provide care to them.

Proposed solution: Initiate a pilot position at Martha's Vineyard Community Services for a Family Childcare Community Support Network Coordinator. This Vision Fellow would create a support network, and provide respite care, for family childcare providers. Other responsibilities would include recruiting new providers and helping care providers gain access to professional development opportunities and enrichment activities.

Problem: Lack of Supports for Brazilian Students and their Families. Seven years ago, 72 students in the Martha's Vineyard Public School system (MVYPS) were English Language Learners (ELL). Now, we have 315 ELL students, a number which continues to grow. These students and their families often experience hardship transitioning from their country of origin and from the stressors related to the immigration process. Often, their needs are not addressed as they settle in and enter school. Some continue to struggle with adapting to their new lives, accessing important resources and even completing high school.

Proposed solution: Establish a pilot position through MVYPS for a Vision Fellow to initiate an after school trauma therapy group that focuses on stressors that are unique to those who have immigrated to the Island, as a means to begin to address the problem. The group also may address other issues, such as substance use awareness.

Problem: Inadequate Mental Health Supports for Island Youth. The level of support available to Island youth for mental health services is not adequate to meet the current needs. MVYPS recently engaged experts from MedStar Georgetown University Hospital to fully evaluate the school's health services. MedStar recommended the development of a school-based health center.

Proposed solution: Engage a Vision Fellow through either the Martha's Vineyard Hospital or Island Health Care, both of which would collaborate with the school district, to research the viability of this project.

Each proposed solution does face roadblocks, some more substantial than others. However, each proposal clearly demonstrates potential to spur positive movement on important Island issues that can be addressed through the Vision Fellowship grant model. Kudos to Kendra, Shelley, Josh, Luanne, April, Antone and Luiza for all of the hard work, effort and expertise they've brought to the Vision Fellowship Advisory Council!

MIDCAREER MILESTONES



Victoria Haeselbarth

Victoria Haeselbarth, a 2017 Vision Fellow, recently earned her Master's Degree in Healthcare Administration at Southern New Hampshire University. For eight years she has served Edgartown's senior population as the Outreach Worker at the Edgartown Council on Aging. Victoria also serves on the Dukes County Health Council, promoting coordinated and accessible local health care, and Healthy Aging MV which identifies and addresses the needs of our senior population. Victoria is passionate about supporting initiatives that help mitigate the Island's housing crisis, serving on the Health Council's housing sub-committee, and is a strong advocate for the proposed Housing Bank. She recently helped develop a program in collaboration with Edgartown EMTs to keep older adults safer in their homes. Together, they assess residents' safety and provide equipment such as fire extinguishers, smoke detectors and rug pads, as well as addressing other topics. The program is financed by the Council on Aging's Friends organization. She continues to promote the Safe Seniors Program, an on-going initiative to educate the public in identifying and assisting at-risk senior citizens. She also co-leads the Island's Memory Support Group which meets weekly at Featherstone Center for the Arts.

More milestones...



Ryan Kent

Ryan Kent, a 2018 Vision Fellow, earned his Master's Endorsement in Adapted Physical Education (APE) from Wright State University earlier this summer. Ryan is currently employed at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School as a Physical Education and Adapted Physical Education teacher. Over the next three years, he plans to expand the assessment and evaluation process for children in APE. Using this information, he will design specific learning goals and objectives which will direct the curriculum and lesson planning. He also plans to work towards building a "starter kit" of APE equipment with the hopes of providing one to each school on the Island while working towards becoming a brand ambassador to get more equipment and materials. He also plans to expand the school's evaluation process and guide/train other island PE teachers to provide APE services. The highlight of Ryan's work in this program was bringing Unified Athletics (through Special Olympics) to the high school in 2019. Unified Athletics pairs students with disabilities and students without disabilities through athletic programs such as basketball and outdoor track and further creating a more inclusive environment for all students.

The Results of the Vision Fellowship Events Survey are in!

The results are in on the 2019-2020 Vision Fellowship Events survey! The survey went to 75 Island-based people, including past fellows and mentors, and 32 responded. The vast majority, over 90%, are interested in the small group dinners at which specific topics are discussed. Almost half of the responders were interested in a book group evening. And more than half of the respondents gave additional ideas for events to give Vision Fellows opportunities to get together. We are organizing accordingly and invites will follow, but in the meantime, please send along any ideas for group dinner topics, guest speakers and/or book titles.

Vision Fellowship Fast Fact:

Between 2005 and 2019, 112 Vision Fellowships have been awarded to 107 people. Of the 112, 75 continue to live and work here on Martha's Vineyard. Here are the 2019 Vision Fellows:



The 2019 Vision Fellows at Island Grown Initiative's Farm Hub during their all-day orientation event on June 15th. From left to right, Curtis Fisher, Kaila Allen-Posin (host), Noli Taylor (host), Aaron Lowe, Mark Fisher, Peg Regan, Alley Estrella, Carrie Fyler, Haven Huck, Rebecca Hodgson, Megan Carroll and Victoria Scott. Not pictured: Cynthia Mitchell, Brian Morris and David Vanderhoop.

WHAT ARE THEY UP TO NOW?

Micah Agnoli

Micah knew since a young age that he was interested in a career in public safety. In 2009, at 17, he joined the Edgartown Fire Department as a junior firefighter, and rose to the rank of firefighter when he turned 18. In 2011, as a freshman at Tufts University, he earned his certification as an Emergency Medical Technician and was awarded a Vision Fellowship to support him through the remaining three years of his undergraduate career.

Since graduating from Tufts University in 2014 with a degree in Political Science (and that EMT certification), Micah has furthered his career in public safety by returning to the Island to work with Chief Alex Schaeffer of the Edgartown Fire Department, who was his mentor during the Fellowship. Micah now holds the position of Assistant Emergency Manager, helping Edgartown to update its emergency preparedness documentation and resources, and to pursue grant funding for the town. He is also working through a paramedic certification program at the National Medical Education and Training Center.



Kristen Geagan In her own words:

A graduate of the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, I received a B.A. in Human Ecology from the College of the Atlantic in 2001. I began working for Sheriff's Meadow Foundation, the Island's local land trust, the following year as the Henry Beetle Hough Intern. I've worked for SMF ever since, with my position evolving over time into the Director of Stewardship. As the Director of Stewardship, I write and administer management plans, monitor endangered species, conduct ecological inventories, assist in our education program and facilitate land acquisition and trail connection projects. I believe that the conservation and stewardship of open space, the protection of our native plants and wildlife, and providing the public with opportunities and places to experience the outdoors is vital to our Island's sustainability. Through the Fellowship, I attended Antioch University of New England and in 2014 received a Master of Science degree in Resource Management and Conservation and a Professional Science Masters. I currently reside in West Tisbury with my husband Jake and our daughter Eloise. I continue to work for Sheriff's Meadow Foundation, helping to provide the Island community with places to enjoy nature, protecting rare species and managing lands for our future.

Molly Peach Mayhew

In her own words:

Through my master's program in Marine Conservation I've been able to study in a part of the world that is not Martha's Vineyard, but shares many similarities with the Island. I've been living and studying in Wellington, New Zealand for almost a year now. This graduate work is both exhilarating and very intense, as a normally two-year program is condensed into 12 months. A few highlights of my studies include field work in Australia on the southern end of the Great Barrier Reef and in Fiordland on the South Island of New Zealand.

In Fiordland we were stationed at Doubtful Sound, a long fiord with unique oceanographic properties. Here we studied the distribution of plankton in the fiord while constructing a model to consider environmental changes (e.g. sea level rise) to the fiord ecosystem. This week of field work meant long days out on the research vessels with many highlights of dolphins skirting around the boat flanks immersed in a breathtaking landscape of steep cliff faces to water's edge.

In Australia my studies turned to a more tropical ecosystem and a very different climate. I developed management plans protecting key ecosystems of coral reefs, seagrass beds, and mangrove forests. Research included looking at ocean acidification and the health of the reef system. As my studies continue, it becomes more pressing that we need to make changes at an individual and societal level to protect the marine environment. Soon I'll finish my degree and return home where the research completed in the Southern Hemisphere will be utilized on our own island.



CONGRATULATIONS (UNDER) GRADUATES!

In its 14 years of existence, the Vision Fellowship program has welcomed 35 undergraduate students into the Vision Fellowship community. The program takes a long view regarding these Fellows. Many young students benefit by gaining additional education and experience elsewhere. Thus, a commitment to move home after graduation is not emphasized. However, undergraduates are encouraged to develop strong mentor relationships wherever they go and to maintain meaningful ties with the Island and the Vision Fellowship community. The three fellows highlighted below were all awarded fellowships as graduating high school seniors in 2015 and then again as rising college juniors in 2017.



Eli Hanschka

Eli Hanschka pursued an education in environmental studies at Colby College, graduating in 2019. Born and raised on Martha's Vineyard, his family, friends, and place allowed him to cultivate a love for interacting with the natural world. This passion has largely driven his pursuits both on and off the Island and manifests itself today in a personal commitment to environmental responsibility as well as outdoor activities such as hiking, skiing, and surfing.

As a Vision Fellow, Eli has focused on environmental sustainability internships: solar panel installation with South Mountain Company, a trail assessment survey for the Martha's Vineyard Land Bank, and coastal resilience research at the Martha's Vineyard Commission.

At Colby, he studied environmental science and geology, but also explored topics like sculpture and philosophy. Colby provided unique learning opportunities, such as studying abroad in New Zealand, conducting hydrologic field research, and an independent study in avalanche science. Eli is grateful for his time engaging in the caring and dedicated communities of the Vision Fellowship, Colby College, and Martha's Vineyard.

Erin Hickey

Erin Hickey graduated cum laude with honors in Biochemistry from Stonehill College in May. Since then, she has moved to Brighton, MA, and begun working at Moderna Therapeutics in Cambridge, MA. According to Erin, "Moderna is a quickly growing biotech company that hopes to use mRNA technology to treat many diseases. mRNA is a different approach to treating disease, but hopefully it will be powerful. mRNA is a way of giving the patients' body instructions so that the body can perform essential functions and fight diseases at the same time." Erin is a Research Associate in Discovery Chemistry and works in the lab most of the day synthesizing molecules to aid with the safe and effective delivery of mRNA. Erin reports that she is enjoying city life, and likes to explore Boston and all it has to offer on the weekends.



Lee Faraca

Lee Faraca graduated this past spring from California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo with a civil engineering degree. He is currently working toward his master's degree in water resources engineering at Cal Poly. For his master's thesis, Lee is creating a statistical model of safe yield levels for residential and agricultural use for the Paso Robles fractured rock aquifer. Fractured rock aquifers are hard to quantify and this field is not well known. Lee hopes to apply probability, geographic characteristics, and water budget data to come up with an estimate of how much water is in the aquifer.



This is Lee's 5th year working with Cal Poly's student run chapter of Engineers Without Borders. Lee is working on designing and implementing a pump, or, more accurately, two storage tanks and a water distribution system, for the 180 person village of La Rinconada, Nicaragua. This system spans over 7000 feet of piping and will provide the community with sustainable growth over the next 20 years. The hope is to have the project completed by the fall of 2020.

CHECKING IN WITH 2013 VISION FELLOW ZOE TURCOTTE

When Zoe Turcotte moved to the Island after college, she first worked with conservation groups like Mass Audubon at Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary and Sheriff's Meadow Foundation. Later, when she began working in the Island school system, she fell in love with classroom teaching. With a Vision Fellowship award, Zoe earned a Master's degree in Middle School Science Education from Lesley University in Cambridge, MA. Locally, she interned at Felix Neck for her mentor, the director Suzan Bellincampi. She worked to develop an after-school program focused on science and sustainability education for Island middle school students. She also volunteered abroad on conservation projects in Africa for five weeks. Zoe's Vision Fellowship also helped as she earned a Certificate for Tropical Habitat Conservation (BTEC) for her work researching lemur behavior in Nosy Be, Madagascar, and teaching environmental conservation in the area.



Zoe Turcotte

in her own words:

I am excited to have started another great school year teaching science at the West Tisbury School. This year, I am teaching 6th grade science and co-teaching 5th grade science. I love my job because I get to teach about planet Earth and the ways in which humans can solve problems to make life better. I strive to instill a love of learning in my students each day. I enjoy implementing what I have learned throughout my time with the Fellowship, including concepts of sustainability, while working directly with my community every day.

Additionally, I continue to run an after-school Science and Sustainability club for Island middle school students. Through service learning, the club fosters environmental stewardship and promotes community collaboration on sustainability education and sustainable development. The club seeks to engage youths in conversations and projects about the environment and to help them develop problem-solving skills regarding environmental issues.

My favorite project so far has been working with students in a group we call "Safe Sea MV." Safe Sea MV was formed by enthusiastic 6th and 7th grade students in science class and extended into the Sustainability Club. When students learned that balloon releases into the atmosphere were allowed, they were concerned. They realized that, when balloons are released outside, they become litter and can harm wildlife and pollute the environment. Club members dedicated their time every week to solving this problem. They wondered if it would be possible to create a bylaw that could ban the intentional release of helium balloons like Nantucket has done. Students researched, created a bylaw, and got the bylaw on the town warrants through petitioning voters. They attended town meetings with pamphlets, signs, and speeches ready. Students spoke eloquently to the voters and answered questions. They eventually got the bylaw passed on the entire Island! This means, thanks to the Safe Sea MV group, the intentional release of helium or lighter-than-air balloons outdoors on Martha's Vineyard is banned and punishable by a fine of \$100.

The students won a Project Green Schools award in recognition of "serving as an outstanding green community hero" which was presented by the House of Representatives at the MA State House. Students were able to explain their learning to the broader community through a short documentary about their project in collaboration with the MV Film Festival and Sail MV.

Come to the Vision Fellowship Fair! Saturday, June 20th, 2020 at the Grange Hall

Save June 20th, 2020, from 4 until 6 p.m. to participate in or come to the first Vision Fellowship Fair. The Fair will be an opportunity for Vision Fellows, past and current, to present their work to the Vision Fellowship Community and to the public. The fair will be at the Grange Hall in West Tisbury. More details about how you can participate will follow.

One last, but not least, Vision Fellow Update: Lynn Ditchfield and the Launch of the Borders to Bridges Creativity-Based Immigration Curriculum Guidebook K-12



The Borders to Bridges: Creativity-Based Immigration Curriculum Guidebook draft pilot project, supported by the Vision Fellowship, has been launched on MV! Thanks to additional support from MVYPS Vice Superintendent in charge of Curriculum and Instruction, Richie Smith, K12 teachers were invited to attend a Professional Development Day workshop on October 11th, led by some of the local contributing educators who shared a “teaser” of lesson plans. These include Janice Frame, also Artistic Director of the project, Marge Harris, Jeff Majkowski, Donna Swift, and Vision Fellow and creator of Borders to Bridges, Lynn Ditchfield. (Laura Doty Indigo was also scheduled to lead, but a storm made that impossible). Twenty-two teachers and five teacher presenters enthusiastically engaged in the pilot materials during the three-hour workshop. Participants represented all seven schools in cross disciplines, including: art, arts integration, English, ELL, math, music, science, social studies, special needs, student services, world languages, elementary and high school teachers. Project coordinators, Lynn Ditchfield and Janice Frame, with the leadership of six facilitators in the MVYPS K12 schools (Cheri Cluff, Heidi Ganser, Jill Gault, Lisa Magnarelli, Jeff Majkowski, and Nadia Sahila) and

two in the MV Public Charter School (Victoria Dryfoos and Jo Weinberg) will connect with the one hundred and four teachers (from all MV schools) who have expressed interest in piloting Borders to Bridges materials. The material is available to any Vision Fellowship community members who are interested in viewing or piloting the project in schools, after-school, adult and community programming, prison education, refugee and asylum projects, etc. If interested, see Lynn Ditchfield's contact info below.



The following is a summary of the materials and goals: Borders to Bridges: Creativity-Based Immigration Curriculum Guidebook K-12:

- promotes dialogue in schools and communities;
- presents more than 50 practical K-12 lesson plans for interdisciplinary connections written by educators and writers from 32 different countries and 15 states of the U.S.;
- contains sections on Poetry, Prose and Short Fiction, and inspirational Personal Narratives to be used with lesson plans;
- engages students with project ideas and activities using interview techniques, role-play, creative writing, economic analysis, scientific exploration, historical and political research, mural painting, service learning, music, dance, and graphic arts;
- provides ideas for sharing information in community performances, exhibitions, and art displays, and on public access television and social media; and
- connects with up-to-date resource lists of news articles, teacher guides, arts resources (books, films, videos, music, photography, media interviews), and service organizations working to further immigrant and human rights.

See the Lesson Plan Summaries and Statement of Purpose at: Focus on Immigration Education and Stories Through the Arts (FIESTA) <https://fiesta-immigrationfocus.com/>. For more information contact: lynnditchfield@gmail.com.

And, finally, a shout out to Vision Fellowship Sponsoring Organizations: Are you a non-profit in need of website design or marketing work? Curtis Fisher, a 2019 Vision Fellow attending Northeastern University, is passionate about marketing and website design, and enthusiastic about remaining connected to his Island home. Curtis is offering to volunteer his time and skills towards helping Vision Fellowship Sponsoring Organizations improve their digital presence. Curtis can be reached at curtis@growthsuite.io.