

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

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



The 2017 class of Vision Fellows during orientation last June.

From left to right, rear first, Josh Gothard, Dick Johnson, Allison Roberts, Kevin Brennan, Daniel Gaines, Victoria Haeselbarth, Dani Cleary, Casey Blum, Lorena Crespo and Camilla Prata (Not pictured: Irene Bright-Dumm, Lynn Ditchfield, James Robinson)

VISION FELLOWSHIP FAST FACTS

Fellowship Awards to Date

The Vision Fellowship has awarded 86 fellowships to 83 people (three people were repeat fellows) since 2006. Of those, 28 were undergraduates, 40 were graduate students or professional development fellows, and 18 were project-based.

Mentors

The Vision Fellowship encourages each Fellow to develop relationships with mentors who provide advice, feedback, connections and the wisdom of their experiences.

Current Fellows

Thirty-four people are currently Fellows: 14 are undergraduates; 15 are in graduate school; and five are project-based Fellows.

Sustainability Areas of Interest

See the graph on page 4, for a visual of the breakdown of the number of Fellows by sustainability area.

Undergraduates

The Vision Fellowship takes a long view regarding undergraduates' future contributions to the Island. Young students often must live elsewhere to gain education and experience before returning to the Island or impacting the Island through the ripple effect of their work elsewhere and their deep connections here.

Sponsoring Organizations

The Island's nonprofits and progressive for-profits who employ Fellows or for whom Fellows volunteer or intern are the Vision Fellowship's 'sponsoring' organizations. Of the 37 sponsoring organizations to date, 15 have sponsored more than one Fellow. As examples, Martha's Vineyard Community Services has sponsored nine Fellows, Island Grown Initiative has sponsored seven, and BiodiversityWorks has sponsored five.

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.

MID-CAREER MILESTONES

Mid-career fellows pursue a wide range of degrees, certifications and trainings from a variety of institutions and programs. The following represent a small sampling.



Lila Fischer (Vision Fellow 2016) graduated from the University of Massachusetts Boston's Accelerated Nursing Program in August 2017. The 15-month program included on campus classes and clinical experiences at five Boston area locations including Boston Medical Center and Massachusetts General Hospital. Lila completed her final preceptorship working one-on-one with a nurse at Boston Medical Center's pediatric intensive care unit. Lila is excited to delve into her work as a registered nurse on the Island in the role of a community health nurse with a focus on health promotion and social justice. Her goal is to increase support for families during the childbearing years, especially during the often overlooked postpartum period.

Lorena Crespo (Vision Fellow 2017). During her fellowship, Lorena assessed lesson plans she had created over the last 10 years for Martha's Vineyard Community Services Head Start Program. Her goals were to share curriculum with other teachers and home visitors from her graduate studies in Early Childhood Education and her extensive experience with the Brazilian community. The result was a booklet of weekly lessons with suggestions and reflections about teaching dual language learners and supporting parents in the transition from home to the school system. The booklet also emphasized the importance of encouraging and helping families to be part of the Martha's Vineyard community. Lorena completed her Master's In Education: Curriculum and Teaching while working full-time at Head Start, teaching Spanish through Adult and Community Education (ACE MV), and starting a new part-time job teaching Spanish at the MV Public Charter School.



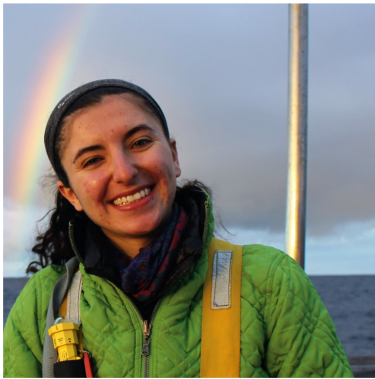
Lorena and her sons, Daniel, Mateo and Andres at her graduation on December 22nd, 2017



Irene Bright-Dumm (Vision Fellow 2017) is a yoga teacher and Reproductive Health Counselor at Martha's Vineyard Family Planning. She is in her final year of study for a Master's of Science in Yoga Therapy at Maryland University of Integrative Health. Irene's hope for the advanced clinical study of yoga as a scientific health modality is to bring the tools of yoga to the field of healthcare in a way that can be fine-tuned and targeted to encourage holistic well-being in the treatment of specific conditions. She is particularly focused on substance use disorder and Lyme disease. Irene has teamed up both MV Community Services and fellow Vision Fellow Brian Morris (2017) to provide yoga training to the MVCS Recovery Coaches. Irene provided a four-part training in breathing techniques, meditation, and physical movements to equip the recovery coaches with basic yoga tools they can use with their clients. The series addressed the importance of self-care for the recovery coaches themselves and also discussed yoga's effects on the nervous system, to help coaches understand how these practices help their clients to physiologically cultivate a state of well-being.

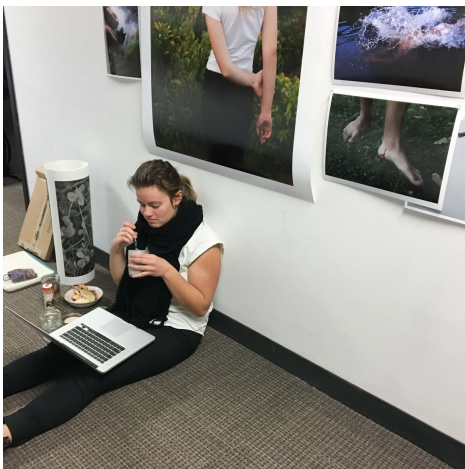
UNDERGRADUATE UPDATES

Undergraduate fellows study biochemistry, psychology, nursing, pre-med, pre-law, education, nutrition, biology, environmental conservation and other areas that fall within the Vision Fellowship's sustainability areas of interest (see graph on page 5).



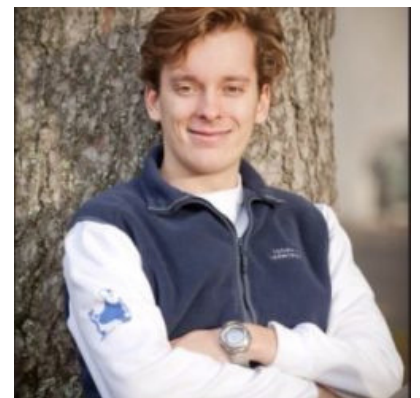
Sammi Chaves (Vision Fellow 2014) is a senior at Wheaton College, majoring in biology. As a Vision Fellow, she has interned for the Great Pond Foundation, the National Marine Life Center in Buzzards Bay, MA, BiodiversityWorks and Marine Mammals of Maine in Harpswell, ME. During these internships, she has assisted with a shellfish restoration project at the Edgartown Great Pond, helped rehabilitate seals, monitored shorebirds and responded and cared for stranded marine mammals. Sammi spent spring semester 2017 preparing for and taking part in a program run by Sea Education Association, Woods Hole, MA. She traveled to New Zealand and from there sailed on a 3,500 nautical mile voyage to Pape'ete Tahiti aboard SEA's vessel, the Robert C. Seamans.

Eli Hanschka (Vision Fellow 2015) is a junior at Colby College majoring in Geology and minoring in Environmental Studies. As a Vision Fellow, he interned at South Mountain Company working in the Energy Dept. on their solar installation crew and at the Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission doing a trail assessment project. This past fall, he spent a semester abroad studying in New Zealand learning about its geology and environmental history. "While there, I traveled extensively around the country, seeing first hand its stunning and diverse landscapes that hold a unique story of geologic and human modification," said Eli. This winter, Eli spent January interning with Maine Huts & Trails, a non-profit that maintains four eco-lodges and 80 miles of trails in western Maine.



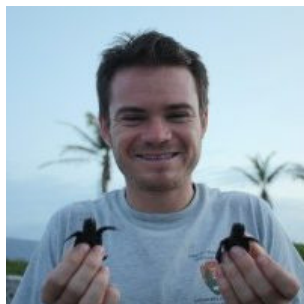
Astrid Tilton (Vision Fellow 2016) is in her second year at Hampshire College, studying photography and sustainability. Her academic work has focused on how place impacts people, as well as how the actions and lives of people shape the places they live. Astrid interned twice with Island Grown Initiative as they have expanded their work related to food access and food insecurity. The Summer Food Service Program provides free lunch during the summer when students do not have access to school meal programs. Astrid was the site supervisor at the Boys & Girls Club, one of three sites established in the program's first season. Last year, Astrid began a series of photographs about home and family. She says this: "My time at college so far has made me reflect on what the Island means to me, and how I think of home. How do people find meaning in places? What can make places painful, and what makes us want to care for and sustain a place? The combination of food advocacy and photography allows me to observe the experience of living on the island from a broad perspective."

Daniel Gaines (Vision Fellow 2017), a freshman at Clark University, is studying biochemistry and molecular biology. He will research Lyme Disease on campus next summer. He will be using several untested molecular tools on the bacteria in hopes of further understanding its genome. During his first semester, Daniel and a fellow student developed an in-depth research proposal that their microbiology professor wants to supervise in his laboratory and fund all materials/trials. Daniel explained that the professor "thinks the implications are large enough to warrant breaking out of his comfort zone and researching it with us." This past summer, Daniel interned for Massachusetts Institute of Technology on Island and collected ticks here, on which he performed tests to determine which pathogens were present. The internship involved molecular work, biological safety training, and several field excursions.



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.



David Bouck (Vision Fellow 2006) earned his Master's degree in Coastal Zone Management from the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science in December 2017. His thesis focused on using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) methods to detect localized relationships between land use, water quality, and algal blooms in Biscayne Bay, FL. His research was conducted in partnership between the University of Miami and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) as part of a multi-year, thesis-based internship. As a Vision Fellow, David earned a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Science from Endicott University in 2009.

In June 2017, David was hired as a crew leader with the United States Geological Survey (USGS), Pacific Island Ecosystem Research Center, based in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, HI. He is responsible for managing field operations for a two-year ecosystem restoration study funded by the National Science Foundation. This project is looking at the roles of birds in seed dispersal, as well as invasive grass competition in limiting understory recruitment of native vegetation species. Understanding these mechanisms are key to optimizing critical habitat restoration and resource management on the Big Island of Hawaii. Moving forward, David plans to continue to pursue a career in resource management and public policy development.



Emma Green-Beach (Vision Fellow 2007) was in the second Fellowship class of 2007. She earned a M.S. in Ecology and Evolution from Rutgers University, studying Dermo disease and population genetics in the wild oyster populations of Martha's Vineyard. She has the following to say: "I was fortunate to be mentored by Rick Karney from the MV Shellfish Group (MVSG) and work in his shellfish hatchery during the summers of 2006 – 2010. From my first day at the hatchery, I knew that I had found my career path and I never let that goal leave my view."

After graduation from Rutgers, Emma worked as a Research Assistant II in the Scientific Aquaculture Program at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, as well as in the Animal Care division for three years where she cared for various marine animals and ran a small, research scale shellfish hatchery. In the hatchery, she spawned and reared oysters, scallops, blue mussels, surf clams and quahogs, under various research grants. "I learned to apply the skills I learned from Rick, and adapt them to my new setting," says Emma. In winter 2014, Emma returned to the MVSG, full-time, as Special Project Manager. For three years, she managed 10 projects with 13 different grants, a few of which included shell recycling, experimental oyster beds and investigation into harvesting the invasive reed, *Phragmites australis*, as a means to remove nitrogen from our coastal salt ponds. In 2017, Emma became Co-Director of the MVSG, when Rick Karney retired.



Christine Brissette (Vision Fellow 2006) earned her Master's degree in hydrology at the University of Montana in May 2017. Her research looked at the effect of stream restoration on natural water storage. In August 2017, she started a job with Trout Unlimited in Missoula, Montana, where she has lived since 2009. As the name implies, the basis of Trout Unlimited's work is trout habitat conservation and restoration, but the projects have much broader impacts. She is involved in several mine reclamation projects, a major dam removal right outside of Missoula, and is working to improve the organization's overall monitoring/research efforts. As a Vision Fellow, Christine earned a B.S. in Ecological Development and Design from the University of New Hampshire. Christine previously worked at an ecological restoration and consulting firm, Watershed Consulting, where she designed and led a wide range of projects focused on stream and forest assessment and restoration.



Jeremy Mayhew, Wes Brighton and Will Dintenfass, who are creating a documentary film about the commercial fishing industry on the Vineyard and more widely, through a 2015 Vision Fellowship award.



Luanne Johnson (Director and Wildlife Biologist of BiodiversityWorks, Vision Fellow 2015 and mentor for four Vision Fellows), Julie Fay (Executive Director of Martha's Vineyard Community Services, nine time sponsoring organization and mentor to Vision Fellow Luiza Mouzinho), and Brian Morris (MVCS Recovery Coach Supervisor and Vision fellow 2016), at a Vision Fellowship gathering in November 2017.



Victoria Haeselbarth (Edgartown Council on Aging's Outreach Worker and Vision Fellow 2017), right, with Meris Keating, at The Anchors. Victoria is working towards a Master's in Healthcare Administration. Meris is assisting The Anchors with outreach through a Vision Fellowship grant awarded to the ECOA on behalf of Victoria.



Kendra Buresch (Vision Fellow 2015) and April Knight (Vision Fellow 2016), at a Vision Fellowship gathering in November 2017. Kendra designed and implemented a Habitat Kids curriculum for many Island schools. April is working toward her Ph.D. in international psychology.

The Martha's Vineyard Vision Fellowship enables passionate and hard-working people who are 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 12 sustainability areas of interest.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD VISION FELLOWS

BY SUSTAINABILITY AREA

