



Press Release: Vermont Academy of Science and Engineering

Burlington, Vermont, USA: September 23, 2008

Vermont Academy of Science and Engineering Elects Four New Members



left to right: Judith Van Houten, Edwin Bovill, Naomi Fukagawa, and Grace Spatafora

FOR RELEASE SEPTEMBER 23, 2008

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Dr. Judith Van Houten, Professor of Biology at the University of Vermont, area of research is chemoreception, or how cells detect odors, using single-celled organisms, paramecia, as models of olfaction in all species all the way up to man. She has established the Vermont Genetic Network through NSF funding and is helping to create scientific and technology infrastructure within the state through her involvement with the National EPSCoR/IDeA Foundation and Coalition boards.

Dr. Edwin Bovill is Professor and Chairman of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine at the University of Vermont and Medical Director of the Diagnostic Laboratories within the Fletcher Allen. His personal research is mostly centered in the field of human blood clotting mechanisms and the prevention and detection of thrombosis. Using Vermont as his laboratory, he has followed the bloodlines of several Vermont families to gain very valuable insights into the hereditary transmission of blood clotting defects.

Dr. Naomi Fukagawa, Professor of Medicine at the University of Vermont, has performed critical research advancing our knowledge of physiologic and nutritional changes associated with aging. Her studies are pivotal in strategies offering promise for reduction of obesity and preservation of wellness in the elderly. She is active in a leadership capacity both at UVM and in national organizations concerned with nutrition, clinical research, and training of new investigators

Dr. Grace Spatafora, Professor of Biology at Middlebury College, is a microbiologist specializing in the bacterium *streptococcus mutans*, which plays a major role in dental decay. She has engaged undergraduates within her lab and routinely they accompany her to national research meeting. Additionally, she is a professor for The Teaching Company, which produces college-level courses on video.

The Vermont Academy of Science and Engineering (VASE) was founded in 1995 by the Vermont Technology Council, following a recommendation of the Vermont Science and Technology Plan of December, 1994. It was established with three purposes:

1. *To recognize outstanding achievement and contributions in the broadly defined areas of science and/or engineering*
2. *To foster a deeper understanding and promote discourse on scientific and technical matters among the citizens of the State of Vermont*
3. *To provide expert and impartial technical advice to the people and the government of the State of Vermont*

A list of VASE members may be found at

http://www.uvm.edu/EPSCoR/pdfFiles/Vermont_Academy_of_Science_and_Engineering_Directory.pdf

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