

school news

Brattleboro Union High School Wins Prestigious Marjot Foundation Science Award

By Carol Suitor

Marta McBean, a high school student from Dummerston, Vermont is one of this year's winners of the prestigious Marjot Foundation Award for Environmental Research. Ms. McBean will use the \$3,000 grant to study the impact of climate change on sugar maple sap production in the southeastern Vermont towns of Dummerston, Putney and Brattleboro.

"It is a very well thought out study with the potential to increase our understanding of climate change on Vermont sugar maple populations," said Michael Auerbach, a teacher in the science department at Brattleboro Union High School, who will be her mentor for the study.

"I first plan to examine root starch content, soil chemistry, and physical tree measurements such as trunk diameters, and will then compare the data with historical data at the UVM Maple Research Center," said Ms. McBean.

Ms. McBean joins a very talented group of southern Vermont students who also have received Marjot Foundation grants. In 2006, a team from Brattleboro Union High School examined the effects of land use on the health of the Williams and West Rivers. The team went on to win a silver medal of excellence at the Vermont Science Fair as well as a first place designation by the Green Mountain Water Environment Association.

"The Marjot Foundation is excited about Ms. McBean's study and we will welcome applications for 2008 from public high school students throughout Vermont," said Carol Reinisch, the foundation's chairperson.

The Marjot Foundation, a non-profit 501c3 entity based in Falmouth, Massachusetts, is

dedicated to promoting environmental education in New England through student research at the high school level. Students must write hypothesis-driven proposals designed to answer a specific question. At the end of their work (usually one year), they must enter a science fair to present their data.

Dummerston School Graduates 25 in 2007

By Stella White

On Tuesday, June 12th, 2007, twenty five students graduated from Dummerston School in a ceremony in the Dummerston School gymnasium that was decorated with beautiful flowers provided by Ruth Marx. After the processional played by Rita Corey, Principal Jo Carol Ratti welcomed students, staff, family, and friends. Student speaker Travis Elliott-Knaggs talked about the memories, the things they had learned, and the times ahead. The eighth grade vocal ensemble consisting of twenty members of the class sang *We're Going To Be Friends*.

Katy Annis introduced the guest speaker, Lois Reed, who recalled memories with the class and challenged them to take advantage of every opportunity and be true to themselves.

Members of the eighth grade class and Dummerston seniors from the BUHS class of 2007 received the following scholarships and awards:

The PTFO awards for graduates of the BUHS class of 2007 who graduated from Dummerston School who are continuing his/her education or training were given to Cailey Biles, Jenny Forrister, and Tessa Short.

The Travis Sweetser Awards for players who showed a great love for the games of soccer and baseball were both given to Travis Elliott-Knaggs.

The Dummerston Women's Association

Awards for the top male and female scholastic averages in the class were presented to Katy Annis and Travis Elliott-Knaggs.

The Ruth E. Knapp Memorial Fund Awards for the male and female with the most improvement scholastically, socially, as a citizen in the class, outstanding effort, concern for others, and good citizenship all around were presented to Charlotte Brown and Sam Finnerty.

Sam Finnerty received the Jenny Rubinstein English Award for one of the top overall students in various areas of English with a stress on creativity.

Amy Murphy was the well-deserved recipient of the Arlene G. Forrett Memorial Award for a good all around student and citizen.

The Jean Shaw Creativity-in-Science Award for someone who is good in science and shows a great deal of creativity and loves science was presented to Ian McBean.

There was a tie for the first time for the Margaret T. Irsch Writing Award for the best single piece of writing. The awards went to Ian McBean and Katy Annis.

The Timothy Garland Scholarship for a person who loves math and is good in math went to Charlotte Brown.

The Teachers' Award went to Keith Wood.

Landis Field and other members of the Dummerston Class of 2006 presented their class gift of a new LCD projector.

At the end of the program, diplomas were presented to Katy Annis, Rylan Bristol, Charlotte Brown, Jennifer Butts, Shelby Davis-Lane, Travis Elliott-Knaggs, Trevor Emery, Tracy Evans, Landis Field, Samuel Finnerty, Sarah Given-VanLeeuwen, Ethan Hausrath, Ashley Korenewsy, Ian McBean, Ambria Momaney, Tyler Momaney, Amy Murphy, Max Oriabse, Seth Pletcher, Maureen Spicer, Erin Stachura, John Tanner Walior, Chasity Waterman, Arianna Wolfe, and Keith Wood.

A reception put on by the seventh grade parents and the PTFO followed the ceremony.

Sponsors

Cheryl Wilfong & Bill McKim

Alice Houpis

Mary Lou & Bill Schmidt

Ron & Jo-Ann Tier

Tonia & Whit Wheeler

**Robert E. Dunklee
& Sons**

72 Flat Street

Brattleboro, VT 05301

254-5663

Dave Finlayson - Owner Cell (802) 275-8084
Master Plumber #PM 3631 Home (802) 387-4158

**HOMESTEAD HEATING
AND PLUMBING, LLC**

"Your Complete Heating and Plumbing Service"

Licensed Dummerston, VT Insured