

# The High School View

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## STEAM-Powered Science Fair

BY CHRIS ARING

Science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) prevailed through tough winter conditions this past weekend. The annual Science Fair, held at the high school cafeteria, took place Saturday morning.

Patrick Dutton, a freshman, made shoes out of different types of recycled materials. He said, "There are a lot of wasted bottles that end up in the ocean around the world and especially on Martha's Vineyard, so I wanted to do something that would help that problem."

Judge and artist/entrepreneur Frank Brunelle judged for the third time this year. He said, "I love to come here because I get to meet so many young creative minds, and this year, there are many creative and well-thought-out projects."

Sophomore Curtis Fisher made a geostationary and geosynchronous satellite. He said, "I came up with the idea after I read an article about the International Space Station and how the internet up there was slow. I wanted to see how I could use space to spread a signal."

After the projects were open to the public, awards were announced. Curtis's project, titled "The Information Space Age," took first, while Rose Engler and Kat Roberts' project "Building a Solar Powered Cell Phone" and Daniel Gaines and David Webster's "Utilizing Recycled Polystyrene to Replace Concrete" took second and third, respectively. First-place awards in investigative projects went to freshman projects by Alexis Condon, Mackenzie Condon, and Addy Hayman, and many special awards were given to projects relating to areas of science such as renewable energy or marine biology.

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Biology teacher John Nelson enjoyed the fair: "I'm here to celebrate the marvelous students that participated because of their independent research. It takes courage to make leaps in science." Freshmen John Morris

and Harrison Dorr made an underwater turbine that generates power from ocean currents. Said Harrison: "We think we could expand our project by scaling them up and putting the turbines near bridges

around the Island, where there is a constant current flow to make power." Annual science fair judge and school psychologist Lorraine Wells said, "I wish kids had more time to devote to projects in school." Mr. Nelson said, "I am blessed to work with a fabulous set of colleges in the science department, and it is a group effort for all of us to be here to support each other and the students."

Water resource planner for the M.V. Commission and science fair judge Sheri Caseau said, "This is my fifth year volunteering, and I enjoy coming here because I like to promote science and the youth. The projects are amazing."

Said Mr. Brunelle: "I think that if you're involved in a science fair project and take it seriously, you can come up with something life-changing. It can propel students into adulthood with important contributions to society." **HSV**



Freshman Jason Davey presents his investigative science project to a judge at the annual MVRHS Science Fair on Saturday, Feb. 6.

PHOTO BY ALI BARLETT

## Seniors Make an Impact

BY ROSE ENGLER

Self-directed learning is emerging, as 20 second-semester students embark on their senior projects. The projects allow students to demonstrate their academic knowledge in any aspect of education. The projects provide time for the students to grow and learn in an area they are passionate about, giving them an alternative experience many high school students look forward to for years. The project requires seniors to commit to at least three periods of school to working on it. Such work can be done in or out of school, as long as a weekly journal and mentor check-ins are maintained.

Early in the second semester, seniors are already brainstorming and starting projects — most have even written up their ideas.

Senior Kate Hansen is trying to decide between

two projects. She said, "I'm interested in doing a project based on the emergency medical system of the Island. The EMT (emergency medical technician) course I am

since I'm hoping to go into medicine or psychology in the future."

Kate's second idea is to build a curriculum with the purpose of mental health awareness and destigmatizing mental illnesses. She said, "I want to teach basic dialectical behavior therapy (DBT)

person anyone in my family would go to for anything from a splinter to removing stitches. It's just something that fascinates me."

Kate said she wanted to do a senior project because she wished someone had taught her the DBT skills she needed when she was

younger. She said, "Maybe I can make a difference, no matter how small, to make someone's life just a little bit easier."

Senior Arden Bezahler is working on a project to observe and analyze how attitude affects surroundings and how people react. She said, "It's more

react." Her experiments will include not smiling for a few days or saying yes to every opportunity in order to see how it changes others' reactions toward her.

Arden's initial attraction to psychology came from observing people. She said, "I'm fascinated with thinking about why people are so successful, and how people interact with each other." She said, "I just started watching weird psychology videos on YouTube. I think I was inspired when I noticed my friend in class talked negatively toward the teacher, and in return how the teacher reacted toward my friend."

She said, "I feel it's important for students, especially ones graduating, going into the world, to know really how their attitude is affecting their relationships."

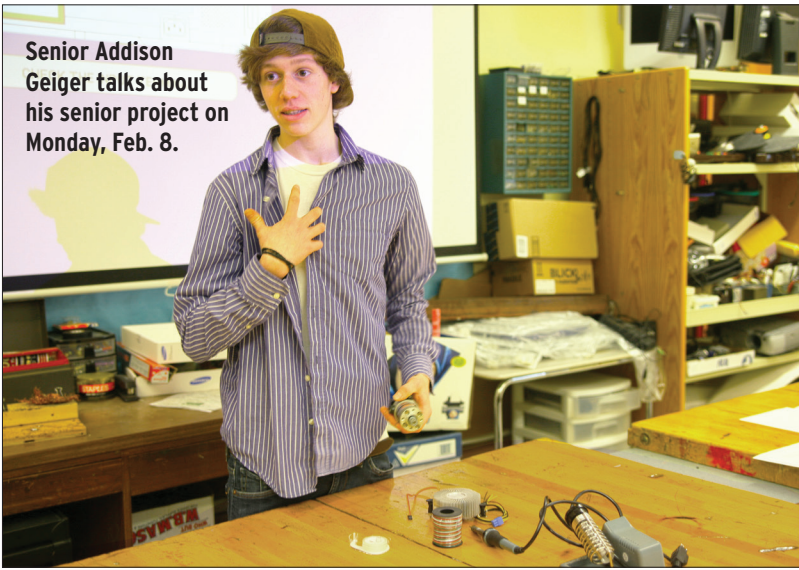
Senior Addison Geiger is deciding among a few projects. He said, "My ideas include building a quantum energy generator to power my shed, building an electric-

drive longboard, an electric-drive go-kart, an electric-drive motorcycle, or an electric wakeboard. I'm most interested in the quantum energy generator, though."

"A quantum energy generator creates enough power to power itself — basically free energy," said Addison. "It can also power other things as well, while running off itself."

He said, "I've always felt confident with science and I like making vehicles, but the interest in energy is new."

Senior Nils Aldeborgh wants to build a bipedal robot that learns to walk through an evolution-based code. He said, "The idea came to me while I was touring colleges. I was at Worcester Polytechnic Institute and I was inside the robotics building. I wondered how I could make a replication of the ATLAS machine, which is a hydraulically kinetic robot that participated in the DARPA robotics challenge." He wants to redesign the machine using motorized linear actuators and some cool coding. **HSV**



Senior Addison Geiger talks about his senior project on Monday, Feb. 8.

PHOTO BY CHRIS ARING

taking right now sparked the idea. I thought it would be nice to get a more in-depth look at the EMT program,

skills or coping mechanisms. I've always been an advocate for mental health. As for physical health, I'm the

psychology-based, so I'm going to be doing some mini observational studies within myself and see how people

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