

E-Blast # 2 June 2011

Congratulations:

to the students and teachers who recently completed the 2011 Junior Engineering Technology Society Competition, better known as JETS. The Louisiana program was held at Nichols State University. Teams from De la Salle (Joel Kelly), Hahnville (Jonathan Holly), Mount Carmel (Ghazala Khan), Northshore (Jennifer Mueller), St Martin's Episcopal (Warren Lind), and St Mary's Dominican (Sina Baldwin) faced questions and challenges around the theme Smarter Energy. Cleaner Planet.

for submitting winning entries for the 2011 PBS Teachers Innovation Awards include first place winners, who will travel to Dearborn Michigan, Mark Rabalais (WLPB) and Jennifer Williams (WYES). Second place award packages will be received by Katrice Hall (WLPB), Michelle Buchanan (WLPB), and Vickie Stewart (WYES).

For information on the following educational offers and resources please visit the LSTA website at: [http://lsta.info/eblasts/2011/eblast\\_june\\_2011\\_2.pdf](http://lsta.info/eblasts/2011/eblast_june_2011_2.pdf)

1. All pdf books by the National Academies Press available for Free
2. New on EAGLE Fourth and eighth grade science and socials studies
3. Partnering for Excellence: Innovations in STEM Competition: Deadline June 22
4. Bridge's Hurricane Resources
5. National Writing Project English and Spanish versions *Water Wonders / Las Maravillas del Agua*
6. NatureFind NWF'S new park and outdoor activity-finder program
7. Scale of the universe Interactive URL site
8. LSTA Award Deadline: September 10
9. Quality Science and Math Grants: Deadline September 16, 2011
10. Register for the 2011 HHMI Holiday Lectures on Science!
11. New BioInteractive Teacher Guides Available for Download
12. The Physics of Animation (NSF)
13. Provide input to U.S. National Ocean Policy: Deadline July 2

1. Looking for summer reading? Want your own copy of *Taking Science to School* ([http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=11625](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=11625))??

All pdf versions of books published by the National Academies Press will be downloadable to anyone free of charge. [National Academies Press](http://www.nap.edu) (NAP)

This includes the current catalog of more than 4,000 books plus future reports published by National Academies Press (NAP) – publisher for the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, the Institute of Medicine, and the National Research Council.

Free access to online content supports the mission of NAP -- to improve government decision making and public policy, increase public education and understanding, and

promote the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge in matters involving science, engineering, technology, and health.

The National Academies can enlist the nation's foremost scientists, engineers, health professionals, and other experts to address the scientific and technical aspects of society's most pressing problems through the authoritative and independent reports published by NAP.

Check out *Engineering in K-12 Education*:

[http://books.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=12635](http://books.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12635)

## 2. New on EAGLE Fourth and eighth grade science and social studies

Now uploaded and ready for use are:

- grades 4 & 8 science and social studies
- premade tests for grades 4 & 8 science and social studies. This includes pre- and post-course tests and individual unit tests.
- learning skills for grades 4 and 8 science Those for social studies grades 4 and 8 will be added soon.

The easiest access <https://www.louisianaeagle.org>

## 3. Partnering for Excellence: Innovations in STEM Education

Carnegie Corporation of New York, The Opportunity Equation, and Ashoka's Changemakers® last week announced Partnering for Excellence: Innovations in Science + Technology + Engineering + Math (STEM) Education. The competition is looking for model solutions that deliver STEM content and skills to students by using existing resources from the private and not-for-profit sectors in new ways, demanding shared accountability for student achievement, and fostering long-term collaborations between schools and a wide array of partners. The competition's winners will receive more than \$120,000 in cash and in-kind prizes, provided by a host of grantors. For more information go to the competition's website at:

<http://www.changemakers.com/stemeducation/prizes>

Early Entry deadline is June 22, 2011.

## 4. Bridge's Hurricane Resources

May 15 and June 1 mark the official beginning of the Eastern Pacific and North Atlantic hurricane seasons, respectively. From now until November 30, people in these coastal areas need to stay informed and prepared. Keep abreast of hurricane news and information via the [Bridge's Hurricane resources](#).

“The Bridge is a growing collection of the best marine education resources available on-line. It provides educators with a convenient source of accurate and useful information on global, national, and regional marine science topics, and gives researchers a contact point for educational outreach. Resources are organized as indicated on the sidebar on the left side of the screen.”

[http://www2.vims.edu/bridge/search/bridge1output\\_menu.cfm?q=hurricane](http://www2.vims.edu/bridge/search/bridge1output_menu.cfm?q=hurricane)

5. The [National Writing Project](#), [Reading is Fundamental](#), and [FableVision](#) recently released [The Curious Adventures of Sydney and Symon in: Water Wonders / Las Curiosas Aventuras de Sydney Y Symon en: Las Maravillas del Agua](#), a bilingual chapter book suitable for children aged 6-8.

With English and Spanish versions under one cover, *Water Wonders / Las Maravillas del Agua* features two young scientists, Sydney and Symon Starr, a sister and brother team who explore their world by asking questions and conducting experiments with help from their family and teachers. Together, the two discover science and engineering while expressing themselves through writing.

*Water Wonders / Las Maravillas del Agua* introduces the arts to STEM (science, math, engineering, and technology) education through various activities that encourage readers to experiment and solve problems on their own as well as through suggestions for further reading. This approach is a way to invite more learners into subject areas that can oftentimes seem intimidating and unapproachable.

The book was written and illustrated by New York Times bestselling author Peter H. Reynolds and his twin brother Paul A. Reynolds, founders of FableVision, an educational media developer and publisher. A [free download](#) is available from the National Writing Project.

Also available from the [National Writing Project](#) and from [Reading is Fundamental](#) is the bilingual [Our Book By Us!/Nuestro Libro ¡Hecho Por Nosotros!](#), a hands-on book for preschoolers that provides parents and caregivers with a resource in English and Spanish to engage young children in reading and writing to support their early literacy development. *Our Book/Nuestro Libro* can be [downloaded](#) for free from the National Writing Project, or purchased from the [NWP bookstore](#).

6. National Wildlife Federations' *Be Out There*<sup>™</sup> public education campaign is for parents who want to address the growing "indoor childhood" problems America faces with all of its societal costs – health, education, life preparation and conservation.

NWF introduced the new online park and outdoor activity-finder program, [NatureFind](#). [NatureFind](#) is a one-stop, online source for free information and directions to thousands of the nation's most popular, fun and nearby parks and nature areas whether you live in a rural setting, along a coast or the inner city.

If you are unfamiliar with our [NatureFind](#) program it is well worth checking out. All you need is a zip code!

It has 10,000 of the best outdoor places in America listed (on a map) from national parks to local nature centers and -- is nearly unique in listing another 50,000 recurring outdoor events for individuals and families to attend.

7. Scale of the universe Interactive URL site

[http://primaxstudio.com/stuff/scale\\_of\\_universe/](http://primaxstudio.com/stuff/scale_of_universe/)

8. Be an LSTA Award winning educator! Complete your application packet today.

Outstanding Elementary Science Teacher of the Year

Outstanding Middle School Science Teacher of the Year

John Dempsey Outstanding Secondary School Science Teacher of the Year

The Essie Beck "Rising Star" Science Education Award

Claudia Fowler Distinguished Service to Science Education Award

The Distinguished Informal Science Education Award

William W. Craig University Educator Award

For more information and application forms visit the LSTA website at [www.lsta.info](http://www.lsta.info) or contact:

Jan Graff, Awards Coordinator

10111 Norris Ferry Road

Shreveport, LA 71106

[jlgraff@bellsouth.net](mailto:jlgraff@bellsouth.net)

Award Applications must be postmarked by September 10, 2011.

9. Quality Science and Math Grants Deadline September 16, 2011

<http://www.seasystem.net/cgi-bin/qsm/>

The Quality Science & Mathematics Grant Program(QSM) was established by the Louisiana Legislature for the purpose of providing materials and equipment to MATHEMATICS and SCIENCE PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS. The QSM program has funds to award approximately \$162,000 in grants to eligible classroom teachers for the 2011-2012 school year. Grants for approved materials and equipment will be awarded on a competitive basis to **individual** K-12 regular classroom teachers to use in providing standards-based instruction to help meet state accountability goals. Applicants must show that their proposals will enhance the quality of instruction for regular education students who are enrolled in mathematics or science classes.

**10. Register for the 2011 HHMI Holiday Lectures on Science!**

Bone, Stones, and Genes The Origin of Modern Humans

Where and when did humans arise? What distinguishes us from other species? Did our distant ancestors look and behave like us?

When Darwin proposed that humans evolved from a common ancestor with the great apes, he lacked fossil evidence to support his idea. One hundred and fifty years later, the evidence for human evolution is plentiful and growing, including detailed molecular

genetics data, an impressive fossil record, and artifacts of early human culture like stone tools.

Leading scientists John Shea of Stony Brook University, Sarah Tishkoff of the University of Pennsylvania, and Tim White of the University of California, Berkeley, will guide us on a global exploration spanning millions of years to illuminate the rise of modern humans.

[Click here \(http://www.ifcdata.com/lecture2011/\)](http://www.ifcdata.com/lecture2011/) to register

#### 11. New BioInteractive Teacher Guides Available for Download

Brand new teacher-developed, topic-based guides are in the “Classroom” section of BioInteractive. Each guide offers detailed instructions on how to use specific BioInteractive resources to teach a topic, including Biotechnology, Immunology, Gene Expression, Gene Regulation, and DNA, with more on the way!

<http://www.hhmi.org/biointeractive/guides/>

#### 12. The Physics of Animation

*The best animators know their physics*

From drawings to computer animation, the magic of cartoon movies allows audiences to explore a fantastical and imaginary world. To make animated characters life-like on the big-screen, the laws of physics have to be taken into account by film makers. To be believable, every character's movements have to have the fundamentals of physics supporting them. If film makers incorporate scientific principles in the creation of the animated movie, audiences can escape reality and enter a fantasy world.

[The Physics of Animation](#)

#### 13. Provide input to U.S. National Ocean Policy: Deadline July 2

Ocean policy should be of interest to all Louisiana residents.

The National Ocean Council announced that the public will have 30 days to comment on the strategic action plan outlines

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/oceans/sap/> for each of the nine objectives in the National Ocean Policy. Writing teams composed of representatives from the National Ocean Council agencies developed these outlines to provide an initial view as to how federal agencies might address the priority objectives. They are preliminary documents that serve as an early and valuable point in the plan development process for focusing public and stakeholder input. We encourage you to submit comments <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/oceans/sap/comments> and ideas by the deadline--July 2, 2011.