

LOUISIANA SCIENCE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 2008

### President's Message from Charlotte Bihm



Greetings LSTA Members,

Happy New Year! I hope that 2008 finds you and your families healthy, well-rested, and filled with enthusiasm for a productive year.

This is a great time to be a science educator in Louisiana. Science is gaining influence in our accountability program and is becoming a focus in classrooms as a content vehicle for increasing student literacy. Let's embrace the message of our NSTA President, **John Whitsett**, and achieve "world class science for the 21<sup>st</sup> century." Let's also continue to focus on preparing all Louisiana students to become productive in the global economy.

Many of you have established yourselves as innovative educators, thinking beyond the pages of texts and the walls of your classrooms and schools. Consider sharing your innovative ideas and success stories with science educators from across the nation. Session proposals are now being accepted for the **NSTA National Conference on Science Education, March 19-22, 2009**, in New Orleans. The deadline for proposals is April 15, 2008. Visit [www.nsta.org/conferences](http://www.nsta.org/conferences) to complete your application.

Continue immersing yourselves in professional development that motivates you and your students to achieve greatness. Now is the time to apply for an amazing summer opportunity such as the Advanced Technology Environmental Education Center (ATEEC) Fellows Institute or one of the many educator workshops highlighted by NSTA. For more information visit [www.nsta.org/publications/calendar](http://www.nsta.org/publications/calendar). If you are interested in state-sponsored programs, watch for information in your LASER. We will keep you informed of many local science opportunities to come.

If you are planning to attend the NSTA National Conference on Science Education, March 2008, in Boston, don't forget to register to win a fully equipped science classroom once you have completed your conference registration. For details visit [www.nsta.org/ultimatescienceclassroom](http://www.nsta.org/ultimatescienceclassroom)

Have a wonderful spring term!

*Charlotte Bihm*

# LSTA Board and Regional Representatives

## Members of the LSTA Executive Board

<b>Charlotte Bihm</b> President <a href="mailto:Crb3739@slp.k12.la.us">Crb3739@slp.k12.la.us</a>	<b>Jean May-Brett</b> NSTA Liasion/BaP Coordinator <a href="mailto:jean.may-brett@la.gov">jean.may-brett@la.gov</a>	<b>Tina Savoie</b> Region 5 Representative <a href="mailto:tina_savoie@camsch.org">tina_savoie@camsch.org</a>
<b>Paul Johnson</b> Past President/Membership <a href="mailto:pjohnson@tpsd.org">pjohnson@tpsd.org</a>	<b>Pateece Davis</b> Exhibit Co-Chair <a href="mailto:Gpdavis-hardy@caddo.k12.la.us">Gpdavis-hardy@caddo.k12.la.us</a>	<b>Tera Robinson-LaPrarie</b> Region 6 Representative <a href="mailto:robinsont@rapides.k12.la.us">robinsont@rapides.k12.la.us</a>
<b>Shannon LaFont</b> Vice President <a href="mailto:slafont@lafourche.k12.la.us">slafont@lafourche.k12.la.us</a>	<b>Dru Foret</b> Administrative Assistant <a href="mailto:dforet@tpsd.org">dforet@tpsd.org</a>	<b>Sue Ottensen</b> Region 7 Representative <a href="mailto:sue.ottesen@bossierschools.org">sue.ottesen@bossierschools.org</a>
<b>Michelle Brand-Buchanan</b> Secretary <a href="mailto:buchananm@rapides.k12.la.us">buchananm@rapides.k12.la.us</a>	<b>Andrea Walker</b> LSTA Web Master <a href="mailto:andrea_walker@nops.k12.la.us">andrea_walker@nops.k12.la.us</a>	<b>Shavonne Gardner-Price</b> Region 8 Representative <a href="mailto:sprice9455@aol.com">sprice9455@aol.com</a>
<b>Faimon Roberts</b> Treasurer <a href="mailto:froberts35@cox.net">froberts35@cox.net</a>	<b>Jennifer Williams</b> Region 1 Representative <a href="mailto:jwilliams@newmanschool.org">jwilliams@newmanschool.org</a>	<b>Ann Wilson</b> La Science Program Coordinator <a href="mailto:ann.wilson@la.gov">ann.wilson@la.gov</a>
<b>Jan Graff</b> Awards Coordinator <a href="mailto:jlgraff@bellsouth.net">jlgraff@bellsouth.net</a>	<b>Jan Mistich</b> Region 2 Representative <a href="mailto:Janiece.Mistich@stpsb.org">Janiece.Mistich@stpsb.org</a>	<b>Jessica Schexnayder</b> LASER Editor <a href="mailto:jsche15@lsu.edu">jsche15@lsu.edu</a>
<b>Brenda Nixon</b> Special Projects Coordinator <a href="mailto:bnixon@lsu.edu">bnixon@lsu.edu</a>	<b>Cally Chauvin</b> Region 3 Representative <a href="mailto:cally@btnep.org">cally@btnep.org</a>	<b>Mitch Robinson</b> Historian <a href="mailto:jmr2424@slp.k12.la.us">jmr2424@slp.k12.la.us</a>
<b>Paul Johnson</b> Membership <a href="mailto:pjohnson@tpsd.org">pjohnson@tpsd.org</a>	<b>Debra Carroll</b> Region 4 Representative <a href="mailto:debracarroll@bellsouth.net">debracarroll@bellsouth.net</a>	<b>Joyce Tate</b> Parliamentarian <a href="mailto:joyce.tate@mcschools.net">joyce.tate@mcschools.net</a>

## Going Green

### Martin Luther King Elementary Chosen as Green Seed School

On January 14th, Global Green announced its third Green Seed School, Martin Luther King Charter School for Math and Science. Global Green will invest approximately \$70,000 dollars in green energy and water conservation devices and equipment. Global Green will also conduct Indoor Air Quality tests for Volatile Organic Compounds and Formaldehyde. Martin Luther King School is working with the University of Denver to install a Learning Landscape and Global Green will provide a rain water cistern for this landscape project. A water conservation curriculum will also be developed to support this project. It is Global Green's goal to cut energy usage 20% this year. Upgrades to the facility will include occupancy sensors, daylight sensors, a rain water cistern, and a solar hot water heater. Global Green will be announcing two other Green Seed Schools this year.

# 2009 NSTA Conference



## “Celebrating the Year of Science: *Laissez les bons temps rouler!*”

Come join the LSTA board and thousands of science educators for a celebration of the Year of Science by attending the March 19-22, 2009 NSTA Conference on Science Education in New Orleans.

We know LSTA members can relate to the central theme of celebration and hope as we along the Gulf Coast continue to rebuild and recover from hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Considering lessons learned from our recent experiences and the importance of science in our everyday lives, the committee has selected four strands of special significance for the meeting:

- Science and the Human Spirit,
- Research to Practice: The Science Teacher Professional Continuum,
- Energy and the Environment: The Natural and Human-designed World,
- ISTE: Meeting the Needs of the Digital Student.

Leading the conference planning team are: Paul Johnson, Local Arrangements Chair; Brenda Nixon, Program Chair; and Jean May-Brett, 2009 Conference Chair. Strand Leaders working with Brenda on the program are John Ammons, (MSTA President Elect), Cathi Cox, Claudia Fowler, and Sue Ellen Lyons. We are pleased that these outstanding science educators have agreed to be on the team.

We welcome anyone interested in volunteering during the 2009 New Orleans event. This effort will require hundreds of workers and any amount of time will be appreciated. We extend a special invitation to our retired science educators to come and share of themselves by volunteering for one of the several committees. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Jean May-Brett ([jean.may-brett@la.gov](mailto:jean.may-brett@la.gov)).

Science teachers, supervisors, administrators, researchers, and professional development providers who wish to present during the 2009 celebration are invited to submit a session proposal at: [www.nsta.org/conferences/sessions.aspx](http://www.nsta.org/conferences/sessions.aspx) before April 15<sup>th</sup> 2008.

Watch your LASER and the LSTA website [www.lsta.info](http://www.lsta.info) for more 2009 Conference information and news.

.....

## Eleventh Annual Environmental Education Symposium

### “Sharing Our Vision”

February 15-16, 2008.

Holiday Inn Select  
Baton Rouge, La 70808  
225-925-2244

Sure to be an exciting event. There are almost 30 presentations to attend on Saturday! Make plans to attend.

Please contact Tiffany Soileau, Governor’s Office of Environmental Education, for information on registering at [tiffany.soileau@la.gov](mailto:tiffany.soileau@la.gov), toll-free 1-877-523-6833, fax (225) 219-0774

# LSTA Regional News

## ◆ Region I News from Jennifer Williams ◆

Happy New Year to everyone in Region 1! I hope your year is off to a wonderful start. Here is some good news from the region.

Congratulations to **Barry Guillot** of Harry Hurst Middle School in St. Charles Parish. Barry is one of eight Louisianians honored at a November 12th banquet in Baton Rouge as the 2007 recipients of the annual Angel Award sponsored by the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation. Since 1995, the Angel Award program has sought out, recognized and rewarded individuals who do outstanding volunteer work on behalf of Louisiana children.

Ten years ago, Barry and his students adopted a site where the Bonnet Carré Spillway meets Lake Pontchartrain, testing water quality, planting trees and picking up litter and trash. Today, largely through Barry's tireless efforts in securing funding, mentoring thousands of students and spreading the word on wetland conservation, that 28 acres has become the LaBranche Wetland Watchers Park.

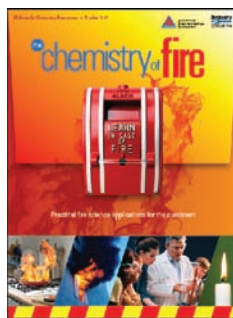
Barry's Wetland Watchers is now a nationally recognized service project. Since 1998, more than 8,000 students have volunteered more than 50,000 hours in those outreach programs, as well as in the local community and the environment. Keep up the good work, Barry!

Are you interested in learning more about Maya people? If you are, then plan on attending the "Teaching the Maya" workshop at Tulane University in New Orleans on February 15th. The Stone Center for Latin American Studies' Latin American Resource Center, Tulane University and the Audubon Zoo are holding a series of workshops associated with the 2008 Fifth Annual Maya Symposium. Become a "Maya Master Teacher" and receive ongoing training about Mayan culture and society. In addition to bringing a broadened perspective to the classroom, you will serve as a consultant on Mayan curriculum for the Latin American Resource Center and other area educators. *Teaching the Maya: An Exploration through Geography* is one in a series of other workshops, to be announced later, devoted to the

culture of the Maya. No background in subject matter is required. You must register by January 31st in order to attend. To register or to learn more about the workshop go to <http://stonecenter.tulane.edu/html/mayateacherworkshop.htm>.

PITTCON is returning to New Orleans and is looking for teachers to attend its Science Week workshops! On Saturday, March 1st and Sunday, March 2nd, teacher workshops will be presented at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. Workshops specific to elementary, middle and high school science will be available and registrants for the workshops will receive loads of supplies and materials so they can immediately implement principles and activities demonstrated in the workshops. To preview the list of workshops and to register go to <http://www.pittcon.org/scienceweek/workshops.html>. I hope to see there!

As you can see many wonderful opportunities are available to teachers in our region. If you or your students have received recognition for something special, please forward me your good news in an email. Please send all news to [Jwilliams@newmanschool.org](mailto:Jwilliams@newmanschool.org) or call 504-896-8607, extension 569. I look forward to hearing from you!



### New Chemistry Lessons Teach Students about Fire

The Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE) has partnered with Discovery Education to create a new in-school program titled The Chemistry of Fire. The program is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

The interactive program includes a teacher's guide with five lesson plans, a DVD that demonstrates exciting experiments included in the lessons, three classroom posters and a web site where teachers and students can find more classroom and career resources. The program will be released to nearly 20,000 high school science department chairs nationwide in mid- January 2008. More information about SFPE can be found at [www.sfpe.org](http://www.sfpe.org).

## ◆ Region II News from Jan Mistich ◆

Welcome to 2008! I'd like to wish everyone a wonderful new year!

We have some great things happening in science education in Region II as we begin a promising new year.

**Nell McAnelly** from the LSU Cain Center recently traveled to DC to attend the NSF/US DoEd joint MSP meeting for STEM faculty. Nell works with the East Baton Rouge and Iberville MSP Projects. The Cain Center has an active role in 10 MSP partnerships.

Congratulations go to **John Trowbridge**, from SLU and a former LSTA President, who has an article in this quarter's issue of CURRENT, the journal of the National Marine Educators Association. The multi-page article is titled "Understanding Symbols as a

Component of Ocean Literacy." John was the first education director of LUMCOM and this article is an example of how he has kept in touch with his first love...marine education.

Congratulations, also, to **Jim Wandersee**, the 2004 LSTA Bill Craig Awardee, from LSU. He has an article in the January 2008 issue of NSTA's The Science Teacher. The article by Jim and co-author **Renee Clary** is Marquee Fossils. Jim and Renee are regular presenters at the LSTA Conference each year.

I would love to share all the great things that are happening in our region, so I encourage you to send your Region II science news and pictures to Jan Mistich ([janmistich1@yahoo.com](mailto:janmistich1@yahoo.com)).

## ◆ Region III News from Cally Chauvin ◆

Region 3's champion **Alice "Shep" Templet** from Nichols participated in the NSF/ US DoEd STEM Summit meeting in Washington, DC. Shep is a core instructor in the Lafourche Science MSP. This project brings together Lafourche, St Mary's Terrebonne and Nichols to form their partnership. Shep, an invited breakout session presenter provided a thorough review of the three years of the TIPS project with a wonderful PowerPoint.

Congrats to the following Quality Science and Math Grant recipients: Lafourche Parish had several QSM winners ... **Tonia Guidry** from Golden Meadow Middle School for receiving a Quality Science and Math Grant in the amount of \$732.00 for science kits and models. **Rebecca Comeaux** from Larose Upper Elementary School for receiving a Quality

Science and Math Grant in the amount of \$750.00 for Life Science equipment and models. **Stephanie O'Rourke** from Central Lafourche High School for receiving a Quality Science and Math Grant in the amount of \$720.00 for digital cameras for science class.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."- Margaret Mead (1901-1978) quoted in John M. Richardson, ed. Making it Happen, 1982

**Cally Chauvin** has accepted a new position at Nichols as Assessment Coordinator of the College of Education. Please send all news for region three to the following: [cally@btnep.org](mailto:cally@btnep.org) or [calchauvin@yahoo.com](mailto:calchauvin@yahoo.com)



**REMINDER! Next LASER Deadline, Saturday, March 1st!  
Contact your Regional Representative with your good news!**

◆ Region IV News from Debra Caroll ◆



Church Point Middle School NASA Explorer School Team.  
From left to right: Audrey Paddio, Leeann LeBouef, Fran Price-Lemelle, Sonia Devillier, Principal Paul DeRousselle.

◆ Region V News from Tina Savoie ◆

**Georgia Broussard**, Sulphur High, (Calcasieu) attended the NSTA, Birmingham, conference where she received training from the FDA in Food Science focused on food safety and how to prevent food borne illnesses. She will be training with the FDA and USDA in Washington D. C. in July. This spring she will be training teachers in her area. Congratulations Georgia.

Trying to understand Louisiana's environment, **Cheryl Kibodeaux, Betty Guidry, and Tina Savoie** are having students explore ways to put the pieces back together. Cheryl Kibodeaux is separating seeds with the Calcasieu Career Center students to provide native seeds, Rattlesnake Master and Ashy Sunflower, to be planted by individuals or greenhouses. Betty Guidry has her South Cameron, 6<sup>th</sup> grade students reading Accelerated Reader books that concentrate on science to explore science and how it relates in their everyday world.

She also has them conducting interviews with survivors of Hurricane Audrey and doing compare and contrast activities using their own experiences from Hurricane Rita to create a newspaper article. The best five will be published in the local paper. Tina Savoie, South Cameron High, and her Environmental students test water quality in Cameron Parish. The students collected and recorded data. They hope to participate with the BayouSide Classroom project.

Congratulations QSM grant recipients: Calcasieu Parish: **Cheryl Kibodeaux, Christina Wilson, Georgia Broussard, Jeanne Lejeune, Karen Fontenot, Kellie Miguez, Laura Richard, Linda Wygoda, Michelle Fontenot, Sherry Dattola, Sommer Odom, and Tomasena Chaisson**: Cameron Parish: **Tina Savoie**.

If you have any events or good things to showcase, please send me an article at [tina\\_savoie@camsch.org](mailto:tina_savoie@camsch.org), and put in the subject line "NSTA NEWS".

---

**The Louisiana Governor's Environmental Education Commission in partnership with Alcoa Announces the fifth Annual Environmental Awareness Art and Language Arts CONTEST**



FOR ALL CHILDREN AGES 5-12 - WIN PRIZES!

Overall Winner \$250  
First Place in each category \$100  
Second Place in each category \$75  
Third Place in each category \$50



YOUR SUBMISSION MAY EVEN BE CHOSEN FOR A BILLBOARD!

Contact the Louisiana Office of Environmental Education  
for Contest Guidelines and an Application Form  
Toll-free 1-877-523-6833 or 225-763-3537  
<http://www.gov.state.la.us/enved>

### ◆ Region VI News from Tera Robinson-LaPrarie ◆

**Dr. Norvella Williams** of Rapides Parish School Board will be holding a science workshop on February 7, 2008 from 3:30-6:30 p.m. at the Media Center. The workshop is titled "Putting your HEART into science." All science teachers are welcome and are encouraged to sign-up on courseware on the Rapides Parish School Board website.

**Tammy DiBartolo** with the Rapides Parish Library, will be conducting a presentation about the proper procedures on how to conduct a successful science fair project at Alexandria Middle Magnet School on Thursday, January 11, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

**Tera Robinson**, of Alexandria Middle Magnet School, was awarded a QSM Grant for a plastic soda bottle-recycling project the students will be conducting during school. The project also includes the students getting the local community involved by participating in activities for Earth Day and various events at the local zoo.

### ◆ Region VII News from Sue Ottensen ◆

Greetings! My name is Sue Ottesen, and I am the new LSTA Region 7 representative. I teach Eighth Grade Science at Butler Educational Complex in Bossier City. I live in Shreveport with my husband, Mark, and three four-legged feline children. I am excited about being your representative and want to give you the honor of reporting your honors and activities. Please send me your Region 7 news as it occurs so that I can submit to the LASER. My e-mail address is [sue.ottesen@bossierschools.org](mailto:sue.ottesen@bossierschools.org)

**Veronica Trahan** at Linear Middle School has won her second KTBS One Class as a Time Grant. She received the award at an assembly on December 14

at her school. Along with her principal, a KTBS crew was there to make the presentation. Her latest award will be used to purchase a scope-on-a-rope for her sixth grade physical science classes.

**Christy Seal** and her Ridgewood Robo Raiders robotics team took the Champion's Award at the Louisiana First Lego League Tournament in Metairie. Ed Armes and his American Eagles snagged fourth place in the same competition. At the Arkansas First Lego League Tournament in Mountain Home, Ed's Eagles came in ninth of forty teams and Christie's Raiders won second in Robot Dependability.

### ◆ Region VIII News from Shavonne Garner-Price ◆

**Bill Deese** and **Linda Ramsey** (Louisiana Tech University) and **Cathi Cox** (Lincoln Parish Schools) had two different articles featured in national publications. "Nontraditional Card Sorts: Adding Critical Thinking and Inquiry to Science Classrooms" appeared in *The Science Teacher* and "The Blue Bottle Demonstration" was part of the 'Tried and True' segment of *Science Scope*. Cathi concluded the facilitation of PBS's national offering of "Scientific Inquiry and Field Work: Discovering Technology for Grades 6-8." Cathi and Linda were joined by **Missy Wooley** (Ruston High School) at the Cyber Symposium held in Shreveport where plans were made for enhancing science curricula to better prepare students for the effects of cyber studies and industry on the future. Missy welcomed Louisiana Tech's **Dr. David Hall** and his graduate students to her STEM Physical Science class where they demonstrated the use and programming of robots;

the STEM students then began working with programming their own robots.

Congratulations to Simsboro's **Jakeithia Prejean**, **Chris Campbell**, and **Norah Burke** for each being awarded a Quality Math and Science Grant by the state of Louisiana. The combined award of \$2165 purchased Amusement Park Physics materials, a digital microscope, and GPS units to be used in the math and science department.

High School Physical Science teachers from Morehouse, Monroe, Ouachita, Concordia, Catahoula, LaSalle, Franklin, Tensas, East and West Carroll interested in participating in one of the 2008-09 high school MSPs should contact **Virginia Eaton** [eaton@ulm.edu](mailto:eaton@ulm.edu) for information.

# Opportunities



## Physics and Physical Science Teachers' Day

The American Physical Society (APS) invites you to apply to attend a FREE Physics Teachers' Day on Monday, April 28, 2008, to be held at the LIGO-Livingston gravitational wave observatory, about 30 minutes from Baton Rouge and 70 minutes from New Orleans. This Teachers' Day will provide a full day of professional development geared to physics and physical science teachers, including middle school.

Hands-on workshops presenting innovative, classroom-ready activities for both physics and middle school physical science students and take-home materials will be provided.

**Where:** LIGO-Livingston laboratory, Livingston, LA

**When:** Monday, April 28, 2008, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Costs:** The program, meals, and parking will be covered by the APS. The APS is, however, unable to cover substitute expenses.

**How to register:** Go to <http://www.aps.org/programs/education/k12.cfm>. Directly under "High School," click on High School Physics Teachers' Days, and then on April 28, 2008 Program information, and then on Registration. Be sure to register early, because space is limited. You will receive a prompt email reply. Questions? Contact Ed Lee at [LEE@aps.org](mailto:LEE@aps.org) Please spread the word to any other physics or physical science teachers who might like to attend.

## LECTURE/DEMONSTRATION ASSEMBLY

On Thursday, March 6, 2008 there will be a lecture/demonstration program in the La Nouvelle Orleans Ballroom in the Morial Convention Center for students in Grades 9-12. Seating is limited. The presenters will be William Cullen Deese, Johnson Professor of Chemistry, Louisiana Tech University and Cathi Cox, Project ACHIEVE Coordinator, Lincoln Parish Schools. The title of their program is "The Dead Chemists Society Presents: From Molecules to Bowling Balls." (<http://www.deadchemistsociety.com/>) Enrollment forms and additional information are available: <http://www.pittcon.org/scienceweek/DemonstrationLecture.html>



## CHEMISTRY FOR ALL

High School Teachers' Day Program  
@ American Chemical Society National Meeting  
New Orleans, Sunday, April 6, 2008

The ACS High School Day Sunday April 6th will be held in the Hilton Riverside. This year's event: Chemistry-Making Connections. The opening Award address will be presented by the winner of the James Bryant Conant Award in High School Chemistry Teaching sponsored by Thermo Fisher Scientific. Plan to join us for great demonstrations, "grab 'em" teaching ideas, and hands-on sessions. Luncheon provided, plus lots of hand-outs and door prizes.

Registration information can be found at <http://portal.acs.org/portal/acs/corg/content>

## OBTA NOMINATIONS FOR 2008 NOW BEING TAKEN

The National Association of Biology Teachers invites nominations for the Louisiana Outstanding Biology Teacher Award for 2008. All biology/life science instructors (grades 7-12) with at least three years teaching experience in public, private, or parochial schools are eligible. NABT membership is not a requirement for consideration; however, a major portion of each nominee's career must have been devoted to the teaching of biology and/or life science.

Colleagues, administrators, students, the teacher candidates themselves, or anyone competent to judge the candidate's teaching effectiveness can nominate a teacher to receive the award. Candidates will complete a form summarizing their professional experience, academic background, and educational philosophy and provide four recommendations from colleagues, students, etc. The criteria for the award include teaching ability and experience, co-operativeness in school and the community, inventiveness, initiative, and student-teacher relationship.

Winners receive a microscope from Leica Microsystems, binoculars from Prentice Hall, one year complimentary membership in NABT plus certificates and pins from NABT, as well as being honored at an awards ceremony at the annual NABT convention.

Please send the nominee's name and address to Louisiana OBTA director Patsye Peebles at 216 Charter Ridge Ct., Baton Rouge, LA 70810, or by email to [aeppebles@aol.com](mailto:aeppebles@aol.com). Email nominations will be acknowledged by a reply to confirm receipt. Deadline for nominations is March 1, 2008, but nominations are being accepted immediately. Nominees will receive an application packet to be filled out and returned by April 1, 2008, so early nomination will give more time for this process.



## NATIONAL YOUTH SCIENCE CAMP (NYSC)

Each year, the governor of West Virginia issues an invitation to the governor of every other state to initiate a process to select delegates to the NYSC. Two outstanding students from Louisiana will be selected to spend a month in the Monongahela National Forest near Bartow in the eastern mountains of West Virginia. Governor Blanco has asked the Department of Education (DOE) to coordinate the selection of the Louisiana delegates to the summer 2008 NYSC.

The DOE requests your assistance in the selection of these students. All expenses are covered so that selected delegates may attend, regardless of their financial status. Applicants should be candidates for graduation in the spring of 2008 who have demonstrated superior academic proficiency in mathematics and/or science and who intend on pursuing a Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics career.

For answers to questions about the application and delegate selection process, please contact your state's selection coordinator, Jean May-Brett, at [jean.may-brett@la.gov](mailto:jean.may-brett@la.gov)

## Stars of Teaching Award

The U.S. Department of Education's Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative is accepting nominations for 2008 American Stars of Teaching until March 31. Parents, students, colleagues, school administrators and others can nominate an exemplary teacher who they believe has the qualities to be an American Star of Teaching.

We are seeking nominations of teachers across the United States who are improving student achievement, using innovative strategies in the classroom and making a difference in the lives of their students. Teachers across all grade levels and disciplines will be honored as 2008 American Stars of Teaching this fall. To nominate a teacher, go to: <http://www.ed.gov/teachers/how/tools/initiative/index.html>.

---

---

## AGI AND AGIF ESTABLISH AWARD FOR EXEMPLARY K-8 SCIENCE TEACHER

Alexandria, VA - The American Geological Institute (AGI) and the AGI Foundation are pleased to announce the creation of the Edward C. Roy, Jr. Award for Excellence in Earth Science Teaching. Given annually, this award recognizes one classroom teacher from kindergarten to eighth grade for his or her leadership and innovation in earth science education.

The winner will receive a \$2,500 prize and an additional grant of \$1,000 to enable the recipient to attend an AGI member society conference. To be eligible for this year's competition, applications must be postmarked by March 1, 2008.

This award is named in honor of Dr. Edward C. Roy, Jr., who was a strong and dedicated supporter of earth science education. To learn more about competition requirements, application procedures, and deadlines, visit <http://www.agiweb.org/education/awards/ed-roy/>.



### Rocketry Contest

Mississippi State University, the Bagley College of Engineering, and the MSU Space Cowboys would like to announce a new educational opportunity, a rocketry contest for Middle Schoolers. This new opportunity could be worth \$1,000 to a group.

The MSU Space Cowboys Middle School Launch Challenge is a contest for middle school students (6-8th grades) to design, build, test, and fly a rocket with a scientific payload to 800 ft. AGL. Emphasis will also be placed on two written papers that will be due in the course of the contest. This contest is designed to introduce middle school students to not only rocketry, but to aspects of mission planning and teamwork coming together to achieve a successful mission. The contest will be divided into two distinct sections: the flight of the rocket and review papers.

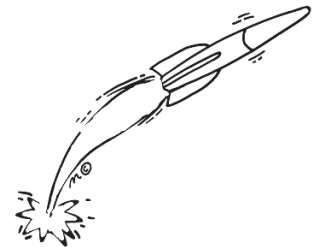
#### TIMELINE

February 1, 2008 ^ Entry Forms Due

March 14, 2008 ^ Progress Reports Due

April 7, 2008 ^ Readiness Review Due

April 12, 2008 - Launch Day ^ Mississippi State University\*\* see last page



Contact Joy Sills at [jes214@msstate.edu](mailto:jes214@msstate.edu) or (601) 750 0325 for more information



### COSEE: State Summer Teacher Opportunity

The Center for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence: Central Gulf of Mexico (COSEE:CGOM) will be holding its 2008 Scientist/Teacher Institutes in Ocean Springs, Mississippi and Cedar Key, Florida. We are recruiting Louisiana science teachers (of grades 5-9) for the three-week course, which includes one week in the field (either FL or MS), and six sessions online. Application Available: <http://cosee-central-gom.org>

- Field session - June 22 - 27, 2008
- Online session - July 7 - 25, 2008

For more information on either institute contact: Dr. Jessie A. Kastler, [jessica.kastler@usm.edu](mailto:jessica.kastler@usm.edu), 228 872 4269 (phone) 228 872 4279 (fax)



## Louisiana Envirothon 2008

April 12, 2008

ULL Cade Farm, St. Martinville

The Louisiana Envirothon is a multidisciplinary, environmental problem-solving competition for students in grades 6 through 12. Teams of five young people from the same school or associated with an organized group (i.e. FFA, 4-H, home-school groups, BSA pack) train and compete in five natural resource areas: soils, aquatic resources, forestry, wildlife, and a current environmental issue. There is also an oral presentation component of the competition, in which teams present a solution to an environmental problem related to the current issue. Throughout the competition

students learn hands-on and in a real-life context the complexities of solving environmental problems while working as a team and having fun.

The Louisiana Envirothon will be held at the Model Sustainable Agriculture Center (MSAC) of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette on April 12, 2008. The MSAC is located at the Cade Farm facility on 1234 W. J. Bernard Road in St. Martinville, Louisiana.

The team of 9th -12th grade students with the highest overall score will travel to the Canon Envirothon competition this summer to represent Louisiana. The Environmental Education Commission will pay the team's expenses to the Canon Envirothon Competition. Information on the Canon Envirothon Competition can be found at <http://www.envirothon.org>.



Nominations are now being accepted for the 2008 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). This celebrated award, administered by the National Science Foundation for the White House, identifies outstanding mathematics and science teachers in grades K-12. Competition alternates each year between teachers of K-6 and teachers of grades 7-12. K-6 teachers may apply in 2008; teachers of grades 7-12 may apply in 2009. Nominations must be made online by March 1, 2008 at <http://www.paemst.org/controllers/nomination.cfc?method=nominate>. You may go to [www.paemst.org](http://www.paemst.org) and choose the Nomination link.

Individuals who are nominated will be notified by e-mail of their nomination; therefore, it is necessary that you have a working e-mail address for each teacher nominated when the nomination is made. Teachers may self-nominate.

Jan Graff serves as the Louisiana PAEMST Coordinator for Science. You may contact her at [jlgraff@bellsouth.net](mailto:jlgraff@bellsouth.net) for additional information.



**Audubon Zoo's Earth Fest 2008** will be held Saturday, March 15, and Sunday, March 16, 2008. <http://www.auduboninstitute.org>

