

**LOUISIANA SCIENCE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

**APRIL 2010**

**President's Message from Shannon Lafont**



I hope everyone has been enjoying the beautiful spring weather. As the school year comes to an end, please remember to mark your calendars for the LSTA Monroe Conference "**LSTA 2010: Putting Science on Top**". You definitely do not want to miss the numerous educational activities Monroe has to offer. Just imagine touring the Biedenharn Museum and Gardens, home built by Joe Biedenharn the 1<sup>st</sup> bottler for Coca-Cola or visiting Poverty Point which contains some of the largest prehistoric earth works in North America. You can also stroll through The Louisiana Purchase Garden and Zoo, the Northeast Louisiana Children's Museum, or the Bayou Black Lake National Wildlife Refuge. All of the short courses and field trips will be listed in the June newsletter. You can be assured you will be enriched by your experiences at our 2010 LSTA science institute with top notch educational short courses, sessions, and field trips as well as the numerous activities Monroe has in store.

The LSTA board members are diligently working to ensure this year's institute is a science experience to remember. Please check inside for information on submitting a short course or field trip proposal and/or pass this along to someone you know who would love to share their science strategies and activities.

I learned new strategies and activities at the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) Conference held March 19-21, 2010 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and saw many LSTA members there as presenters and participants.

*Shannon Lafont*

**Did You Know?**

April 22, 2010 marked the 40th anniversary of Earthday, founded in 1970 by U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson. The Earthday Network claims that Earthday is observed on April 22nd each year by virtually every country on Earth! The founding of Earthday marked the beginnings of the modern environmental movement.



# LSTA Board and Regional Representatives

## Members of the LSTA Executive Board

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<p><b>Charlotte Bihm</b> Past President <a href="mailto:crb3739@slp.k12.la.us">crb3739@slp.k12.la.us</a></p>	<p>LSTA Web Master</p>	<p><b>Sue Ottesen</b> Region 7 Representative <a href="mailto:sue.ottesen@bossierschools.org">sue.ottesen@bossierschools.org</a></p>
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<p><b>Jan Graff</b> Awards Coordinator <a href="mailto:jlgraff@bellsouth.net">jlgraff@bellsouth.net</a></p>	<p><b>Michelle Morvant</b> Region 3 Representative <a href="mailto:mmorvant.tes@lafourche.k12.la.us">mmorvant.tes@lafourche.k12.la.us</a></p>	<p><b>Jessica Schexnayder</b> LASER Editor <a href="mailto:jsche15@lsu.edu">jsche15@lsu.edu</a></p>
<p><b>Paul Johnson</b> Membership <a href="mailto:pjohnson@tpsd.org">pjohnson@tpsd.org</a></p>	<p><b>Mitch Robinson</b> Region 4 Representative <a href="mailto:jmr2424@slp.k12.la.us">jmr2424@slp.k12.la.us</a></p>	<p><b>G. Pateece Davis-Hardy</b> Historian <a href="mailto:gpDavis-hardy@caddo.k12.la.us">gpDavis-hardy@caddo.k12.la.us</a></p>
<p><b>Jean May-Brett</b> NSTA Liaison/Treasurer <a href="mailto:jean.may-brett@la.gov">jean.may-brett@la.gov</a></p>	<p><b>Tina Savoie</b> Region 5 Representative <a href="mailto:tina_savoie@camsch.org">tina_savoie@camsch.org</a></p>	<p><b>Joyce Tate</b> Parliamentarian <a href="mailto:joyce.tate@mcschools.net">joyce.tate@mcschools.net</a></p>

## LEEA



The 2010 Louisiana Environmental Education Symposium was held February 26-27 in Baton Rouge.

# LSTA Professional Development Institute

## **LSTA is ready to accept concurrent session proposals for the LSTA 2010:**

Putting Science on the Top Institute at the Monroe Convention Center.

Please visit the link below to upload your concurrent session proposal.

<http://www.cain.lsu.edu/LSTA2010>

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## **Not sure how to get funding to attend the 2010 LSTA Professional Development Institute?**

Under the NCLB guidelines teachers must meet the state's definition of a "highly qualified" teacher of science. That is why we've designed the 2010 LSTA Institute with your needs in mind. There are over 150 content-rich sessions-plus short courses, and keynote presenters to help you fill in content knowledge gaps...keep up with the latest scientific developments...and learn the best techniques for ensuring that your students actually learn the science you teach.

Here are some ideas!

1. Start NOW! Find out where the funds are and what they will pay for. Be one of the first to ask the administration for time to attend a conference.
2. Find out who handles professional development in your district.
3. Prepare your individual Professional Development Plan (PDP) with a variety of opportunities to learn, practice and enforce new behaviors. Be sure to include workshops, seminars, coaching, mentoring and immersion into inquiry science in your PDP.
4. Be sure to include the LSTA Institute in your PDP.

The LSTA Institute is a cost-effective professional development opportunity for both formal and informal science educators in all disciplines and all grade levels.



**Louisiana Science Teachers Association  
LSTA 2010: Putting Science on Top  
Monroe Civic Center, Monroe, Louisiana  
November 4-6, 2010**



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**www.lsta.info**

**Short Course/Field Trip Proposal Form**  
**(Thursday, November 4, 2010 – 3 Hours or 6 Hours)**

**Please type or print:**

Lead Presenter Name \_\_\_\_\_ Agency/School \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Work Phone Home Phone Fax Email\*

**\*An e-mail address is required**

Co-Presenter(s) Names and Contact Data (Attach a separate sheet to this form and include the above information for each person.)

**Session Title** \_\_\_\_\_

**Description (30 words or less)** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\* PLEASE NOTE: If this session is to be held off site please identify the location and site contact person with phone number.**

Location \_\_\_\_\_ Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Check all that apply:**

<u>Session Type</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Hands-on
<input type="checkbox"/> Demonstration
<input type="checkbox"/> Exemplary Program
<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting
<input type="checkbox"/> Field Experience

<u>Intended Audience</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Childhood	<input type="checkbox"/> High
<input type="checkbox"/> Elementary	<input type="checkbox"/> General
<input type="checkbox"/> Middle	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative

<u>Preferred Length</u>	<u>Time</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> 3-hour	<input type="checkbox"/> 8:30 – 11:30 am
	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:30 – 4:30 pm
<input type="checkbox"/> 6-hour	<input type="checkbox"/> 8:30am – 3:30 pm
<u>Preferred Participant Number</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Up to 30	<input type="checkbox"/> Up to 50
<b>**We may not be able to honor all preferences</b>	

<u>Focus Discipline</u> (Select no more than two)	<u>Cross Curricular</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Science as Inquiry	<input type="checkbox"/> Physics
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/> Earth/Space
<input type="checkbox"/> Life	<input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry
	<input type="checkbox"/> Science/Technology
	<input type="checkbox"/> Science/Reading
	<input type="checkbox"/> Science/Math
	<input type="checkbox"/> Science/Social Studies

<u>Special Requests for SHORT COURSES ONLY</u>
Rooms with Special Needs (water, computer lab, etc):
<b>**Computers and projectors will NOT be provided</b>
<b>**Notification to be sent if need can be met</b>

**Mail, Fax, or E-mail (preferred) form by June 25, 2010 to:**  
**Cathi Cox, Lincoln Parish ACHIEVE, 410 South Farmerville St, Ruston, LA, 71270; 318-255-7624;**  
[ccox@lincolnschools.org](mailto:ccox@lincolnschools.org)

***Thanks for supporting the 2010 LSTA Science Institute! It can't happen without YOU!***

# News from the Department of Education

The learning environment needs to be one in which students feel respected and safe to take risks. Students need to feel that their learning has a purpose and that the curriculum is relevant to their lives. Moreover, students need feedback on their progress, *i.e.*, they need to know what they're trying to accomplish, where they are in relation to the goal, and what they need to do to get there. The instructor's role is to make sure this happens.

Formative assessment informs the teacher of student levels of understanding and serves to improve instruction by providing student feedback, which is administered continually throughout instruction. Students use the results to monitor their own learning; teachers use the results to check for understanding and then to plan their next instructional moves. In contrast, a summative assessment is administered at the end of a course or unit and is used to measure student competency. Teachers use summative results for grades.

### *Examples of Formative assessments:*

- Questioning strategies that are used with the whole group or individuals,
- Discussing students' answers and ideas about a question or topic in pairs or small groups, Think-pair-share during which the teacher circulates and listens to students sharing,
- Using individual mini-white boards or clickers for student responses as ongoing assessment during a lesson,
- Giving a brief writing assignment on a quarter or half sheet of paper where students are asked to write about their learning for the day or to answer a brief question or two,
- Employing hand signals as a quick and easy way to check for understanding,
- Presenting several possible answers to a question, then asking students to vote on them, and
- Asking all students to write an answer and then having them read a selected few out loud, making sure that all students hear the best or correct response.

A good idea when planning lessons is to include a column that identifies the formative assessment strategies used during the lesson activities. Use formative assessment well and often. Research indicates that effective use of this form of assessment greatly improves student performance.

Work has begun on the development of a Science Conceptual Framework to be used as a guide in revising or updating science standards. The framework will identify the core ideas in science; those, which have explanatory power, are accessible over several years for students, are relevant to students, and are important in our society. New research evidence related to how students learn, learning progressions, and the importance of standards to accountability makes this the right time for developing the Conceptual Framework for standards revision. Development of the framework will be accomplished by a partnership among the National Research Council (NRC), Achieve, NSTA, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Design teams of full time consultants will assist the volunteer development committees with drafts. The five areas for design teams include:

- Physical sciences
- Earth and space science,
- Life sciences
- Technology and engineering literacy, plus
- Research and development for future revisions, needed research, etc.

Current research publications, Science Anchors, and the Atlases will be used in the framework development. The Science Conceptual Framework will be published by NRC.

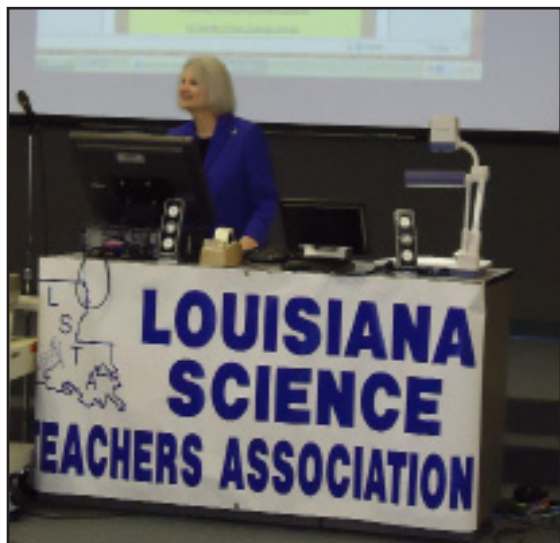
To keep updated, visit the following web sites:

- [http://www7.nationalacademies.org/bose/Science\\_Standards\\_Framework\\_Homepage.html](http://www7.nationalacademies.org/bose/Science_Standards_Framework_Homepage.html)
- BOSE website - <http://www7.nationalacademies.org/bose/index.html>

Contact me at [ann.wilson@la.gov](mailto:ann.wilson@la.gov) or by phone at (225) 342-0140 should you need information or assistance.

*Ann Wilson, Science Program Coordinator, LDOE*

## Recent Events



Jan Graff (Left) and Pateece Davis-Hardy (right) participate in the Healthy Water Healthy People workshop funded by a grant from the Office of Environmental Education.

AAPG Teachers workshop directed by Al Melillo from Chevron and funded by Shell (below and right)



Wendy DeMers, finalist in the Shell Outstanding Teacher Program (left)

Wendy with LSTA President Shannon Lafont (right)

# LSTA Regional News

## ◆ Region I News from Sean Hudson ◆

**Christine Fox** is the new education assistant for **JoAnn Burke** at the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation. She is very excited to be working with such an amazing organization and area! Ms. Fox reminds us that the Foundation offers a number of great environmental education programs to students of all ages. The programs are free and she is more than happy to come to your school or meet you at a site. Some of the programs they have include: Lake as a Watershed (children's activity), Keeping Our Coast (children's Activity), What are Wetlands (children's activity), Hurricanes and Coastal Restoration, Subsidence, Global Warming and S.E. Louisiana, Non-point Source Pollution & Habitat Protection, Habitats of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin, Water Quality, and Wetlands. Any of these programs can be tailored to fit the needs of the subject you are covering and your student population. If you are interested in having Ms. Fox come to your classroom for this spring or coming fall, please contact her at (504) 836-2238 or [christine@saveourlake.org](mailto:christine@saveourlake.org).

Country Day is hosting its 5<sup>th</sup> annual math and science institute this summer. This institute is for middle and high school math and science teachers looking for great professional learning opportunities over the summer. The dates of the conference are July 20<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup>, and the cost will be \$60. The registration fee will cover all three days of the conference, and breakfast and lunch each day. For those of you who have attended the conference before, there will a slightly altered format this year and the new changes should allow everyone to attend more sessions and get more from the conference. At this time they are soliciting speakers. If you are interested in presenting, please contact **Andy Talmadge** at [atalmadge1@yahoo.com](mailto:atalmadge1@yahoo.com). If you would like additional information or to register for the conference please visit: <http://msi.promotinglearning.com>.

## ◆ Region II News from Jan Mistich ◆

Happy Spring! Here are a few things that have been happening in Region 2 since the last newsletter.

Congratulations to **Jenny Ronquillo**, a teacher at Pontchartrain Elementary School in Mandeville, who received a Town and Country Garden grant of \$500 to teach students about trees.

**Christy Paulsell**, Science Curriculum Specialist, helped Jenny coordinate visits by local master gardeners to give Tree Talks to classes. Then, each class planted a tree on campus as part of Keep Mandeville Beautiful's One Tree at a Time program.

On March 20, a number of teachers in St. Tammany Parish participated in LIGO's Science Saturday on Electricity and Magnetism. Teachers experimented with magnets, made electromagnets, and experienced hair-raising demonstrations with electricity. They each walked away with their own personal VandeGraff generator! Teachers participating included: **Rachel Hoffman, Aaron Dietrich, Ann Reed, Ellen Marino, Patricia De Santi, Connie Strain, Catherine Dee, Renee Rome, and Felicia Sollberger.**

With their colleagues **Shelia Stagnoli** for Sherwood Forest Middle School in Baton Rouge, **Erica Birch** from Nesom Middle in Livingston,

**Jan Mistich** at Tchefuncte Middle School in St Tammany, and **Karen McCord** with Southside Junior in Tangipahoa are taking part in a NASA pilot of online materials for middle and high school level science courses. This pilot is being termed as the next generation NASA Explorer School program. Louisiana is one of three states where teachers with Math Science Partnership project experience were invited to participate in

this first time effort at the middle and high school level. At least one teacher at each school was to have been a member of the district's MSP program.

Be sure to let me know the great things you have been doing to bring Science alive for your students! You can email me at [Janiece.Mistich@stpsb.org](mailto:Janiece.Mistich@stpsb.org).

### ◆ Region III News from Michelle Morvant ◆

On March 11, 2010 the **LSU Coastal Roots Program** installed a tree nursery at **Pointe Aux Chenes Elementary** under the guidance of **Miss Natalie Pittman** as the school sponsor. This was a collaborative effort between LSU, South Terrebonne High Seniors, and Pointe Aux Chenes Elementary students. They will be growing and nurturing nuttail oak and cypress trees to be planted in Montegut in an effort to restore our coast. **“Students of Pointe Aux Chenes Elementary”** recently participated in their first tree planting on their school grounds in Houma. They are currently the only school in Terrebonne Parish participating in this program. Great job students!



Students of Point Aux Chenes Elementary

Five middle schools in Lafourche and Terrebonne parishes are participating in an oral history and wetlands awareness entitled the **“Slow Blink”** project. The participating schools included **Lacache, Grand Caillou, Montegut, Larose–Cut Off, and Golden Meadow**. The project focuses on preserving and documenting the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century history and culture of the wetland communities. Teachers were trained through a series of workshops and will be able to provide students with a six weeks intensive program. Fifty students from each school are being educated on the history of the wetlands and importance of its impact for present and future generations. They will conduct interviews with family and friends to learn more about the role of the wetlands. These oral interviews will be documented and available at the Williams Research Center for public viewing.

**Paul Johnson** helped to organize trips to the Houma-Terrebonne Airport for sixth-graders in the Terrebonne public school system as a pilot program to help gain interest in science. Students were presented with a brief history of air flights to the actual physics of flying. The program was so successful he plans to expand it to more grade levels in the future. **David Taylor** of the Civil Air Patrol has information to share on the programs for both students and teachers.

**Joni Bourg** and other Lacache Middle School teachers are participating in the NASA Explorer School Pilot of a new educational site with materials specific to middle school and high school course topics.

If you have information on school news, grants, awards, activities and pictures to share in your area you can send it to me at [mahmorv@yahoo.com](mailto:mahmorv@yahoo.com) so I can submit it to the LASER. In the subject line please include LSTA News.

### ◆ Region IV News from Mitch Robinson ◆

The recent parish and regional science fairs were huge successes. In fact, the regional science fair on the campus of UL Lafayette was so successful, a larger venue is being considered for next year. I am including a photograph of all of the first place winners from my home parish, St. Landry. Also, I am extremely proud to add that four of the first place winners were my own students. Judging from the excitement I witnessed at both the parish and regional science fairs this year, it is imperative that we need to keep science on top. Loss of the science fairs at any level would simply be tragic.

For the second year in a row, the Beau Chene Environmental Club has lent their hand to the Bayou Vermillion District and Trees of Acadiana. During this year's service project, they helped pot over 1,200 tree seedlings that will be given away free to local residents. The purpose of this annual fundraiser is to provide trees to the community in order to improve air quality, improve water quality, save energy, cut utility bills, reduce noise and reduce water runoff. The club also cleared one of Vermillionville's ponds of invasive water hyacinth that had overtaken the ecosystem, forcing out much of the local wildlife. By taking the water hyacinth out of the pond, other plants and wildlife will be able to inhabit the aquatic ecosystem again, bringing more diversity to the Vermillionville grounds.

The BCHS Environmental Club members have also been staying busy right in their own backyard. Each Wednesday, they administer a School-Wide Recycling Program by collecting and sorting all classroom and hall recyclables into bins provided by the St. Landry Parish Recycling Center. Not only is this the third year that both classrooms and offices have recycling bags,

but this year they have taken their Recycling Program to the next level by placing bright orange recycling bins throughout the campus halls. For each pound of classroom and hall recycling collected, SLP Solid Waste Disposal



District donates five cents to Beau Chene High. Thanks to overwhelming school-wide participation, between June 2007 and February 2010, the students, staff, and Environmental Club have collectively raised \$3,786 for the school and recycled over 73,182 lbs. of material. Whether providing service for their local community or their own school, the Beau Chene High Environmental Club has found that being good stewards of the environment pays off in more ways than one.

Another school year may be ending, but many of us will be busy with summer science programs. Please do not hesitate to send me any newsworthy stories from your participation in these programs. A photo or two would also be greatly appreciated. **SHARE YOUR SUCCESS!**

### ◆ Region V News from Tina Savoie ◆

**Judy Reeves, St. Margaret Catholic in Calcasieu Parish**, sponsors an awesome science club of 50 middle school students, grades 6th-8th, whose goal is "A Cleaner Today for a Greener Tomorrow". They have received many awards for their environmental outreach, the most recent being the recipient of the Department of Environmental Quality's 2010 Environmental Leadership Program Award. They will travel to Washington DC to attend the National Energy Education Development (NEED) Youth Awards Program June 24-29, where they placed national runner up last year, and have placed School of the Year for Louisiana since 2000. This group's next community project, CleanBayou, is scheduled for April 24th to clean Contraband Bayou in Lake Charles. Check

out their web site [www.stmcs.com](http://www.stmcs.com). Click on the recycle symbol to see more of what they have been up too. Congratulations Judy and students, and good luck with the NEED program.

Judy not only has an awesome science club, that are always reaching for more, but she is also always reaching for more. She has served with the Region V Science Fair since 1995, under Dr. Bacheloe until 1999, and from 2000-2010 with Mr. Brady Gentry, serving the last five years as co-director. Judy is stepping up for the 2010-2011 year as the region's director for the science fair. Thanks, Judy, for helping our region by filling this important role for all of our students in Southwestern Louisiana.

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

Congratulations to **Elaine Beck** of LSUA on her retirement. Ms. Beck had served as the Region 6 Representative for the LSTA Board and helped organize the first Joint Math and Science Conference in Alexandria. She was the recipient of the William W. Craig University Educator Award for her outstanding work with her students and preparing them for today's classrooms.

Congratulations to **Jennifer Pastor** of J.I. Barron Elementary School. She was recently selected for the 2010 Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy. Since 2005, the Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy has provided over 2,000 third through fifth grade teachers tools, networking opportunities, and discovery activities to integrate math and science in their classrooms. In July, Jennifer will travel to the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City to participate in innovative math and science activities.

On March 19<sup>th</sup>, Ken Stage and the Observatory set up numerous astronomy activities for over three hundred Avoyelles High School students to enjoy throughout the day. The students rotated through four stations throughout the day. After the day's activities at Avoyelles High, Ken and

his crew relocated to Plaquemine Elementary for an evening event with the telescopes. Along with telescope activities, the scientists conducted astrophotography of The Rosette Nebula and The Leo Triplet of Galaxies for the participants.

Tioga Elementary School was one stop in the week long Ground Water Tour put on by the Department of Natural Resources. Through the tour students learned the importance of Louisiana's 1.6 billion gallons of ground water and how any small change can reduce its availability or usage. Along with the tour, DNR distributed free water videos to science teachers and worked with schools, 4-H and YMCA groups across the state to bring an awareness of the importance of ground water to our homes. There is an important educational message in the DNR efforts supporting the conservation of our resources.

Are you an outdoors person who enjoys learning about Louisiana's coastal ecosystems? If so, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is holding a week-long dynamic teacher workshop that allows teachers to get a hands-on learning experience and a chance to work with local

scientists to learn about Louisiana's coastal wetlands. The workshop will be June 13<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested please contact Angela Capello at [acapello@wlf.lagov](mailto:acapello@wlf.lagov) for more information. Interested in the timber industry in Louisiana? If so, contact Waylan Bennett of the LA Department of Agriculture and Forestry for their

upcoming Teacher Tour. The Tour will take place June 7<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> in Alexandria. If you have any questions please contact Waylan Bennett at [wbennett@ldaf.state.la.us](mailto:wbennett@ldaf.state.la.us).

### ◆ Region VII News from Sue Ottesen ◆

Teachers from three Region 7 schools have been chosen to partner with NASA in a program designed to bring engaging mathematics, science and technology learning to educators, students and families. The teachers have been previously involved in MSP projects. They are: **Anne Kilbourn**, Parkway High School - Bossier Parish; **Patricia O'Rourke**, Captain Shreve High School, Caddo Parish; **Phillip Norton**, Youree Drive Middle School, Caddo Parish.

Teachers from Caddo and DeSoto parishes were treated to a full day of Healthy Water, Healthy People training on March 25, 2010 at the Caddo Parish Professional Development Auditorium. Funded by a grant from the Office of Environmental Education, participants received a wealth of materials including water testing kits, Healthy Water, Healthy People manuals, a book on literacy strategies, and environmental posters. **Jean May-Brett** from the Louisiana Department of Education was the presenter.

**Elizabeth Vance** from Donnie Bickham Middle School was named a parish finalist for Teacher of the Year.

Students from Caddo Middle Magnet School took first place in the middle school division at the state science and engineering fair in Baton Rouge. The road to the Louisiana Science and Engineering Fair (LSEF) starts in middle and high schools all around the state. Students compete to advance from their school-level fairs to a regional fair, and then to the Louisiana statewide event. Top Senior Division winners from around the state have the opportunity to take part in the

Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF).

**Cathy Williamson**, Caddo Education Coordinator, and **Lou Papai**, Director of Public Programs at SciPort Louisiana's Science Center hosted a GLOBE Atmospheric Workshop on March 6, 2010. The workshop was funded by an Environmental Grant from the Office of Environmental Education through the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries. It was teaching GLOBE (Global Learning to Benefit the Environment) Atmospheric protocols so teacher and students can be real live scientists and collect and share their data with schools all over the world. Participants received GLOBE rain gauges and are now certified in Global Learning to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) weather protocols.

SciPort also hosted SciBotics Challenge 2010 on March 29, 2010. The competition was a great success thanks to **Kristen Takara** and the SciPort staff. Many area schools were represented with 180 students working in groups to complete one of five tasks designed to measure the skills they learned in class. The results of the Challenge are: Elm Grove Middle School 1<sup>st</sup> place, Stockwell Elementary School, 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and Benton Middle School/ Butler Educational Complex 3<sup>rd</sup> place.



◆ **Region VIII News from Lyndsey Ewing** ◆

Congratulations to **Ruston High School** STEM teachers **Missy Wooley** and **Sarah Wages** who have been tapped as part of the staff for New Tech @ Ruston, a New Tech model academy scheduled to open on the RHS campus in August.

**Cathi Cox**, Lincoln ACHIEVE Coordinator, will serve as the NT@R Director and attended a week-long Principals Residency in Indianapolis, IN, for in-depth training. Wooley and Wages were joined by fellow RHS STEM instructor **Amy Guerin** in leading RHS to its second consecutive championship title at the Regional Science Fair held at Louisiana Tech University; eight students took first place honors and a total of twenty-three students placing first through third.

Guerin and her Marine Science students have been promoting the STEM program throughout the parish with an interactive “Humphrey” exhibit at local elementary schools. Students were allowed to go inside “Humphrey,” a life-sized humpback whale constructed by the students, as well as engage in blubber investigations and learning centers about the mammals.

The RHS STEM team welcomed a site visit from Grant Parish as they plan implementation of a STEM program, and is now set to conduct training for Winn Parish teachers in June.

Congratulations to the husband-wife team of **Stacy Campbell**, STEM instructor at **I. A. Lewis School**, and **Chris Campbell**, **Simsboro High School**, for leading their Science Olympiad teams to state qualifying rankings. SHS placed 4<sup>th</sup> in Division C and IAL took 5<sup>th</sup> in Division B to earn a berth at the state Olympiad in Hammond. Both teachers joined **Sherri Ferrel** (SHS) and **Lori Varner** (Choudrant High School) in bringing teams of students to the NANO Science Day at Louisiana Tech University.



A Choudrant High School senior works an engineering and science challenge at Louisiana Tech University’s NANO Science Day.



A Ruston High School STEM Marine Science student facilitates a discussion about whales to a group of Hillcrest Elementary School students while inside of “Humphrey,” the life-sized model constructed by the STEM class.



**REMINDER! Next LASER Deadline, Saturday, June 5th!**  
**Contact your Regional Representative with your good news!**

# Educational Opportunities

**EXPLORATORIUM** Teacher Institute Science Teaching Tips is a podcast for science teachers, by science teachers. In each five-minute episode, we give you hands-on activities, science facts, science history, pedagogy tips for new teachers, or other ideas for your science classroom.

Go to: <http://www.exploratorium.edu/ti/podcasts/index.php>

## **CPO Summer Institute, June 21-24, 2010**

This course is ideal for teachers of grades 6-12 who want to strengthen their understanding of physics, physical science topics, or expand their inquiry-based investigation knowledge. The sequence of topics for each session is scaffolded to build understanding from basic to more complex science. You will use the CPO Science texts, equipment, and technology as you explore through hands on instruction. Many participants attend our institutes to prepare for the upcoming school year. The institute is in its twelfth year and hundreds of teachers have benefited whether they are using CPO Science programs or other curriculum materials. Contact Contact Susan Gioia toll-free at 866-588-6951 ext.113 or [susan.gioia@schoolspecialty.com](mailto:susan.gioia@schoolspecialty.com) for more information.

## **2010 NSTA Summer Events in New Orleans**

The initial visit will come in mid-July when the Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy (MEMTA) comes to the city. This will be the fourth year that one of the MEMTAs is being held in Louisiana. The first two years the week long teacher workshop was given in Baton Rouge. Teachers from several LEAs and colleagues from other states are treated to a wonderful week of math and science experiences.

Later in the summer NSTA will hold the annual Urban Science Education Leadership Academy (USELA) in New Orleans. This meeting will take place August 2nd – 5th. The program is for teams of five people from a school/district and representation is to include 1 district level person, 1 building administrator, and 3 teachers from the school or district. This program is focused on the unique problems, interests and needs of K-12 teachers of science in urban schools. The event should be of interest to several schools and districts throughout the country.

Following USELA August 5th – 7th there will be an Elementary Science and Inquiry Education summer institute. Summer institutes are relatively new to NSTA. Last year's program was held in FL and was centered on "Professional Learning Communities in Science: Design, Tools, and Resources for Improving Science Learning." The summer institute has a research background, includes strands to meet the need of the participant, and restricts the number of participants to assure rich discussion and a meaningful experience. The 2010 Summer Institute will have three groups. **Roger Bybee** will lead the administration sessions, **Linda Froschauer** will be handling the elementary teacher breakouts, and **Christine Royce** and **Steve Rich** will be directing the coaching strand of the event.

Registration information for the USELA and Summer Institute will be available soon.

