

LOUISIANA SCIENCE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 2010

President's Message from Shannon Lafont



As you are preparing to return to your classroom, be sure to mark your calendar for the November 4-6, 2010, LSTA Institute "Putting Science on Top." Visit the LSTA website at <http://lsta.info/> to find the *Preconference FOCUS*. The *Preconference FOCUS* contains the science institute registration, short course registration, short course listings, hotel information, and institute agenda. If you haven't already done so, please submit your session proposal <http://www.cain.lsu.edu/LSTA2010>. Be a part of the Monroe conference in a special way. This is sure to be a rewarding science experience for all.

The summer may have been a break for some, but many educators spent their time presenting, attending workshops, or providing field trips to students. Please remember to send your science news to your regional representative. The LSTA board was also busy this summer. Gayle Glusman, Jean May-Brett, Paul Johnson, Alice Templet, Cathi Cox, and I attended the National Conference Program Planning Committee, July 15-16, in Washington, D. C. This committee, along with Dave Berenhaus, NSTA representative, and Pat Shane, the NSTA Retiring President, worked to plan the best NSTA Regional Conference which will be held in New Orleans on November 10-11, 2011. You will soon have a chance to submit a proposal for the 2011 New Orleans Conference.

Cathi Cox, Charlotte Bihm, and I attended the National Congress on Science Education (NCSE), July 22-24, 2010 in Las Vegas, NV. It was great to have two LSTA representatives, Charlotte Bihm and I, lead one of the six facilitated forums. NSTA President Alan McCormick's theme was "Imagine and Invent: Create a Great Future," which guided the focus of each forum. The NCSE was very productive with 20 of the 27 resolutions being approved.

Just as Cathi and I were able to voice our thoughts on science education during the NCSE, every LSTA member has several opportunities to express your ideas and thoughts on important issues in the coming months.

- Science textbook adoption is this year. Visit your local library as part of the public viewing and be sure to offer your services for a district adoption team.
- If school board elections are being held in your district, be sure to find the time to vote.
- Now is the time for everyone to contact his/her congressional representatives and express any thoughts on the role of science in the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Need money for your classroom for science supplies or manipulatives? Consider applying for a Quality Math and Science (QSM) grant which is due Friday, September 17, 2010, <http://www.seasystem.net/cgi-bin/qsm/>.

Shannon Lafont

LSTA Board and Regional Representatives

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Welcome

Aerospace Education Services Project

Recently we received news of some “restructuring” of the NASA Marshall (MSFC) and Stennis Space Centers (SSC) areas of education responsibilities. It has been decided that SSC will now work with the educational needs of south LA (Florida Parishes all the way to Texas, basically south of Alexandria) and MSFC will maintain north LA.

As a result **Steve Culivan** (stephen.p.culivan@nasa.gov) will be available to work with teachers and students in southern Louisiana, and **Wil Robertson** (william.o.robertson@nasa.gov) will continue to work with those in the north. LSTA welcomes Steve, a former LSTA Distinguished Informal Science Awardee, back to the state and is grateful that we will continue to have Wil working in Louisiana.

NSTA Regional Conference

Attend NSTA's Conference on Science Education in Nashville

For science teachers and administrators who want to build job security and skills, consider how professional development helps improve techniques and strategies that impact performance in the classroom. Science educators are invited to meet in Nashville, TN, Dec. 2-4, for NSTA's Conference on Science Education. Thousands of professionals take workshops, seminars, discipline specific full day and half day programs (physics, chemistry, biology) to build content knowledge and tackle issues such as inquiry and assessment. Hundred of sessions are available on a wide range of topics. For K-16 educators, this event can give your career a boost. And it's lots of fun, too.

See some of our scheduled sessions:

Featured Speaker: Jeff Lieberman, a musician, roboticist, sculptor, photographer, and the host of Discovery Channel's Time Warp, will present on "Cultivating Curiosity."

Featured Speaker: Diana Nunnaley, Director, Using Data Projects, TERC: Cambridge, Mass will present on Responding to Imperatives—Good Teachers Moving to GREAT!

Activities Linking Science and Math with Art, K-4, and Grades 5-8, Elementary-Middle

Effective Outdoor Biology Instructional Strategies for Your Classroom, Elementary-Middle, Informal

Science on a Shoestring Budget - 25+ hands-on activities and handouts. Elementary

Forensics Science in Your Physics Classroom, Middle-High

Building Understanding and an Atomic Force Microscope - Learn about Nanotechnology. Middle-High

Exciting Engineering Projects - Including balloon-powered cars, bridges, animal habitats, and more.

What's My Disorder? An Endocrine Lab Activity Using a Case Study Approach, High-College

The New Biology in a Box Unit—STEM, High

That Holds Molecules Together?, High

There's also the Exhibit Hall where you will see and test cutting-edge products and take home a tote full of giveaways. Field trips to surrounding areas such as the Central Basin of TN where you'll encounter a fragile habitat rich in marine fossils, social activities for networking, and even earning graduate credit for attending 12 hours of programming are all part of the event. Visit <http://www.nsta.org/conferences/2010nas/?lid=tnavhp> for more details and to register by 10/22 to save the most money.

News from the Department of Education

As we embark on a new school year, it is important that we be aware of the changes occurring in science education this year through 2012. Below, you will find information on some of these changes:

- Biology End of Course (EOC) exams will begin to replace the GEE exams for all students entering their freshman year of high school this year, 2010-11. Upon their completion of the Biology I course, students will take the Biology EOC. Exams will be administered in December for students completing Biology in the first semester, and in May for students completing the course in the spring semester.
- Adoption of instructional materials for science is occurring this year. Adoption committees composed of teachers, supervisors, and parents will review materials submitted to the state for adoption between September 27th and October 8th. State board consideration of selected materials for adoption will occur in late October of this year. Local adoption activities will be carried out from January through March of 2011.
- The Louisiana Environmental Education Commission (LEEC) has taken the lead in developing a state environmental literacy plan for Louisiana. The initial planning meeting occurred on July 13th of this year on the LSU campus. This is an ongoing process. For information, go to the LEEC website at <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/eec>.
- The first draft of the Conceptual Framework of the Next Generation of National Science Standards has been released and reviewed by the public and groups around the country. The Conceptual Framework is being developed by the Board on Science Education (BOSE) of the National Academies. The framework and standards will be based on current research in the field of science education and learning progressions. To keep updated on the framework, go to the BOSE website <http://nas.edu/BOSE>. The Conceptual Framework is scheduled for completion by December of 2010.
- Upon completion, the Conceptual Framework will go to Achieve, Inc. where scientists, researchers, and educators will translate it into the Next Generation of National Science Standards. Standards are scheduled for completion by the beginning of 2012 and will be published by the National Research Council (NRC).

I hope that you find the above information useful and that you have a good school year. If there is any way that I can be of assistance to you or your local science program, I can be contacted at ann.wilson@la.gov or by phone at (225) 342-0140.

Ann Wilson, Science Program Coordinator
Louisiana Department of Education

Congrats!

NABT ANNOUNCES OUTSTANDING BIOLOGY TEACHER OF LOUISIANA FOR 2010



Christina Verberne of Loranger High School in Tangipahoa Parish was named the *Outstanding Biology Teacher of Louisiana* for 2010 by the National Association of Biology Teachers. This honor, given annually since 1961 by NABT in conjunction with Pearson and Leica Microsystems, identifies a teacher from each of the United States, Puerto Rico, District of Columbia, and Canadian provinces who has made valuable contributions to the profession and to his/her students. Criteria for the award include teaching ability, experience, inventiveness, initiative, inherent teaching strengths, and cooperativeness in the school and community. Christina was chosen because of her ability to relate the subject matter to the students' lives in an enthusiastic and engaging manner, because she provides an integrated approach to topics by incorporating other subjects, technology, and society and she involves

her students with the community through inquiry projects, field trips, investigations, and service endeavors.

Mrs. Verberne has been a teacher at Loranger High School for the past seven years and also serves as the science department chair and sponsor of 4-H. She received her Bachelor's degree in Secondary education with a concentration in Biology from LSU. "I feel that it is important for my students to know that science is real and not just found in textbooks. I use technology to grab their attention and try to create a 21st century environment," explains Verberne. For the past two years, her Biology II students have been studying biology concepts in forensics. In collaboration with students enrolled in theater classes, her students investigate mock crime scenes. The theatre students write and set up the mock crime scene and her students then collect evidence, interview witnesses, and apply the scientific method to explain their conclusions. As 4-H sponsor, she has her high school members actively involved with the school's annual blood drive, a wetland restoration project in collaboration with elementary and middle school students, and the creation of a habitat for birds and butterflies in a courtyard on their campus.

Christina is a member of the Louisiana Association of Science Teachers and was recognized as the Loranger High School and Tangipahoa Parish Teacher of the Year in 2008.

"Mrs. Verberne is a HANDS-ON teacher, continually creating, modifying, and providing students with visuals and practical labs that bring lessons to life in an understandable, memorable manner," said Dr. Billie Theriot, principal of Loranger High School. "Mrs. Verberne's wonderful inventiveness is amazing with the resources she has available. She often uses home-made ideas and household products to conduct labs. I believe her greatest quality is her initiative," commented former student, Julia Smith.

Mrs. Verberne, and other OBTA recipients, will be recognized at the NABT convention in Minneapolis in November. She will receive a certificate and pin, a special award from Pearsons, a microscope from Leica Microsystems, Inc., and a one-year membership in NABT.



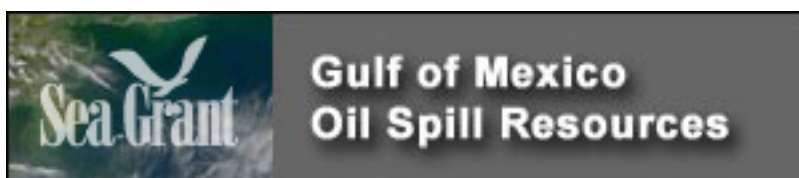
Congratulations to **Lisa Hartman**, Louisiana's 2009 Presidential Awardee for Excellence in Science Teaching. Lisa teaches at Ben Franklin Charter High School in New Orleans. Later this year, Lisa and **Pam Goodner**, Louisiana's Presidential Awardee for Excellence in Mathematics Teaching, will travel to Washington, DC, for a week of celebration with the Awardees from other states and US territories. Pam and Lisa will receive \$10,000 each.

The state 2010 finalists for this prestigious award are **Mary Legoria** from Westdale Heights Academic Magnet School and **Michelle Morvant** from Thibodaux Elementary School.

The annual state recognition luncheon will be held at the Governor's Mansion following a presentation of the 2009 Awardees and the 2010 State Finalists during the BESE meeting on September 16th. Lisa, Mary, and Michelle will be joined by school administrators and family members during the luncheon.

Nominations for the 2011 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) will soon be accepted. 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 grades K-6 and teachers of grades 7-12. 2011 will be a secondary (7th – 12th grade) cycle.

Information can be found at www.paemst.org using the nomination link. Individuals who are nominated will be notified by e-mail of their nomination; therefore, it is necessary that a working e-mail address be provided for each teacher nominated when the nomination is made. LSTA members are encouraged to nominate outstanding secondary teachers for this award. Teachers may self-nominate.



The Gulf of Mexico regional Sea Grant Programs oil spill resources Web site contains a list of educational materials and resources for teachers and students.

The material was compiled by the Office of Environmental Education (OEE) of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for formal and non-formal educators. The list focuses primarily on resources relevant to educators and students (primarily K-12). For more information, go to:

<http://gulfseagrant.tamu.edu/oilspill/index.htm#background>. The list is under the header Background/Education.



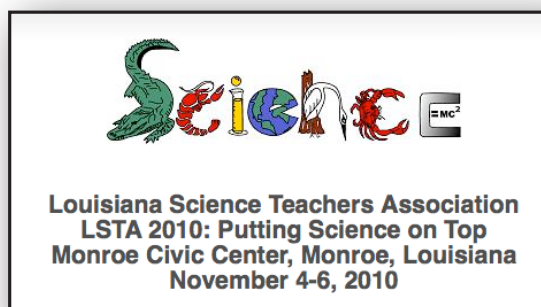
**REMINDER! Next LASER Deadline, Saturday, October 2nd!
Contact your Regional Representative with your good news!**



Region II Informal Educators chosen for Leadership Development Class

Adrienne Lopez, coordinator, LSU Department of Biological Sciences and **Jessica Schexnayder**, administrative coordinator, Office of Sea Grant Development, are new graduates of LSU's *Lead... Emerge* Spring 2010 Class

The *Lead...Emerge* program is LSU's leadership development program for new supervisors, candidates for promotion to a supervisory position, and current supervisors desiring professional and personal development. The selection committee's participant choices were difficult to make due to the caliber of the applications submitted, so this honor is well deserved. Recognizing that the cultivation of new leadership is of the utmost importance to LSU's future prosperity and progress, *Lead...Emerge* seeks to develop and motivate a cross-section of leaders who will use their talents and abilities to inspire others and to foster a new spirit of energy, enthusiasm and vitality. Twenty-four participants were chosen from around campus for the Spring 2010 class.



The LSTA 2010 Science Institute Planning Committee wishes to acknowledge our early conference sponsors:

Platinum Level:

Carole Sandefer, Pearson, Prentice Hall, Scott Foresman, Wendy Peel and Texas Instruments

Gold Level: Brenda Collins and Glencoe McGraw-Hill

Look for future sponsorship announcements!

LSTA Regional News

◆ Region I News from Jean May-Brett ◆

Barry Guillot presented a webinar with the George Lucas Education Foundation's Edutopia group. Barry spoke to over 1000 teachers who signed up for the summer Project Based Learning camp! The teachers are in the beginning stages of designing projects. Many of the teachers are interested in including the oil spill in what they are doing so Barry offered to submit a resource page for the Edutopia website. Barry's Wetland Watchers from Hurst Middle School continue to be fabulous ambassadors for Louisiana.

Teams of science educators from Jefferson and St Bernard attended the Sally Ride Science Academy Presented by ExxonMobil. The Jefferson team included **Patrice Araithi, Cathie Brister, Janice Catledge, Alice Chivleatto, Stephanie Durant, Lintz Adams, and Dorothy Schell**. Traveling from St Bernard was **Lucille**

Alfonso, Gena Asevado, Stenie Lee, Brenda Montalbano, and Michael Scallan.

Dozens of 3rd -5th teachers of science from Region 1 districts enjoyed the Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy held recently in New Orleans.

Jefferson Parish and RSD Tulane Math Science Partnership summer institutes were held.

Sabrina Smith and **Joan Albrecht** arranged for technology sessions for the Jefferson Parish teachers as they brought their three year project to a close. **Jean Pinney** and **Carol Whelan** welcomed back a large group of teachers this summer to kick off the beginning of their third year. The summer project got off to a strong technology start with **Jennifer Williams** providing a couple of days of instruction and practice time with podcasting.

◆ Region II News from Jan Mistich ◆

Welcome back to a new school year! It seems that the summer just flew by before we could all catch our breath. I hope everyone found some time to relax and spend time with their families. From the sound of it, some teachers and science professionals in Region 2 also found time to take advantage of the many summer professional development opportunities being offered around Louisiana and Texas. Here are a few we heard about.

Erica Navarre from Tangipahoa Parish, **Shelly Stagnoli** from East Baton Rouge Public Schools, and **Joni Bourg** from Terrebonne Parish were treated to a four day all-expense paid trip to NASA in Houston. They met with other NASA Schools Pilot Teachers and share their experiences about the NASA NES project piloted last spring. Some of them will be reviewing other new pilot project materials this fall.



Holly Gildig and **Suzanne Ney** were invited to attend the BP-sponsored Summer Earth Science Leadership Academy for middle school teachers, and **Asia Brown** attended the ExxonMobil K-5 Earth Science Summer Leadership Academy, both held in Houston this summer. These teachers learned a great deal about designing and leading science professional development workshops back at home and enjoyed meeting and working with teachers from many different states.

The third LA SC3 workshop will be held at Mandeville Public Works on August 28, 2010, from 9 to 12. There are still spots available for interested teachers. Come and learn how to safely purchase, handle, store, and dispose of science lab chemicals at your school. A \$60 stipend will be paid to the first 35 participants. Contact me at Janiece.Mistich@stpsb.org to register for the workshop.

LESTA will be holding their annual Rock Raffle during the LSTA conference in Monroe in November. If anyone has specimens of rocks or minerals to donate, they will be greatly appreciated by LESTA. Please contact me at Janiece.Mistich@stpsb.org if you have specimens to donate, AND PLEASE plan on attending the Rock Raffle at the conference! It will be a great experience!

Once again, welcome back to school! I hope it will be one of the best years ever as you provide your students with a rich learning experience chock full of science!



◆ Region III News from Michelle Morvant ◆

Joni Bourg from Terrebonne Parish was busy this summer through the Math Science Partnership. She participated in the **NASA NES Pilot** in Houston, Texas. Her students will benefit from this wonderful experience!

Nicholls State University held a three-week summer institute through the **Math and Science Partnership** program consisting of teachers from Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. Mary, and Assumption parishes. Thirty-three teachers attended the three-week summer institute from July 6-26. Teachers were provided a field trip to the USGS National Wetlands Research Center in Lafayette. Participants toured the facility and greenhouse where **Gabrielle Bodin** explained CO₂ experiments in progress. Using class style activities, **Susan Bergeron** led the group in Phosphorus Cycle Musical Chairs as well as other events. These great experiences will impact many students as teachers incorporate them into lessons during the academic school year.



USGS National Wetlands Research Center Tour of CO₂ Green House Experiments

Share your great experiences with others! Drop me a line at: mahmorv@yahoo.com

◆ Region IV News from Mitch Robinson ◆

St. Landry Parish is proud to announce the opening of The Opelousas High School Magnet Academy of Biomedical Sciences. This school will provide a student-centered, college and career preparatory education that emphasizes the biomedical sciences and enables students to take their places as responsible participants in the global marketplace. The overarching goal of the Opelousas High School Magnet Academy of Biomedical Sciences is to prepare students for post-secondary education while providing integrated, focused-learning experiences that enhance the skills and knowledge necessary to meet the demands of the rapidly changing careers in biomedical sciences. The Magnet Academy will accelerate students' performance in high school and provide them with a clearer pathway to post-secondary education and careers. Throughout the Academy courses, students will experience the weaving of career-themed information and opportunities into academic coursework.

This past April, sixth grade students at Bayou Chicot Elementary, near Ville Platte, LA, explored what life is like in the rainforest in April. During their lesson, they were offered a chance to help preserve resources by selling t-shirts as part of



a conservation program via Earth Foundation. The students' goal was to sell 200 shirts to protect 20 acres from deforestation and poaching. Instead, the students exceeded their goal by selling 398 t-shirts! Altogether, the students at Bayou Chicot Elementary School helped to save 39.8 acres of the rainforest in one month's time! The students were treated to a pizza party at the end of the program. Congratulations and a BIG thank you to all participants!

Don't forget to send in any news you wish to share with our members to me at jmr2424@slp.k12.la.us. Your news and stories both inform and inspire.

◆ Region V News from Tina Savoie ◆

Judy Reeves of St. Margaret Catholic School, Calcasieu Parish, has had a very busy summer. St. Margaret's Science Club went to Washington DC to receive the state award at the National Energy Education Development Youth Awards and were nominated for Keep Louisiana Beautiful. She had an Energy and Environmental camp for grades K-5. Judy visited Utah to hunt for the "perfect" rock/mineral/fossil specimens. Judy is the new director of the regional science fair and is now an advisor for the Mayor of Lake Charles's New Youth Team Green. Thanks, Judy for your dedication to your love for science and students.

Cameron Parish has several teachers and students that have completed programs this summer. **Bobbye Delaney**, who teaches middle school science at Grand Lake School, now has a master's degree in Gifted Education; **Gregorie Theriot**, Hackberry School, has completed the Educational Leadership program; **Heidi Baccigalopi**, South Cameron School, has attained an Arts and Teaching degree with certification in Facts and Family Science, Ag Science, and Business Education; **Jobi Richard**, South Cameron School, has completed the necessary processes to become certified in Biology. **Tina Savoie** along with three pharmacy

tech students, South Cameron School, have successfully completed the Pharmacy Technician Certification exam.

◆ Region VI News from Tera Robinson-LaPrairie ◆

I hope everyone has had a great summer vacation and is ready for the new school year to begin. Many of you are doing great things in your classrooms and are starting to plan new activities, events, field trips, etc. for the upcoming year. As you and your students accomplish these various events/activities please keep the LSTA newsletter in mind. Please e-mail me at robinsont@rapides.k12.la.us with any information you would like to share. I wish each and every one of you a great school year and hope to see you at the conference in November.

David Cox with the Region VI TLTC held the “Eye Spy” workshop for all science teachers in the region to attend. David presented the workshop on using digital microscopes in all science classrooms. The workshop taught teachers how to use the digital microscopes to enhance various activities from the *Comprehensive Curriculum*. Teachers who attended the workshop are now authorized to check out the digital microscopes Region VI has to use within their classrooms for a two week period.

Twenty teachers from Rapides Parish attended the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) conference in Denver, Colorado. Teachers learned how to integrate technology in their classroom to engage students in the learning process while teaching them 21st century skills.

For five Rapides parish teachers, a week long trip to New York has left them feeling very inspired and excited for the upcoming school year. **Blair Jeanise** (Cherokee Elementary School), **Jennifer Pastor** (J.I. Barron Elementary School), **Kuricheses Alexander** (Carter C. Raymond Elementary School), **Alice Aud** (Carter



C. Raymond), and **Michelle Davis** (W.O. Hall Elementary School) were selected to attend the 2010 Mickelson Exxon Mobile Teachers Academy. The Academy’s main focus is to show third through fifth grade teachers how to successfully incorporate STEM practices into their classroom lessons. The teachers said it was one of the best professional development opportunities they’ve participated in and it reminded them of why they become classroom teachers.

Marilyn Long (Pineville Jr. High) traveled to Northwestern in Natchitoches for Project Lead the Way training. Marilyn completed the Gateway to Technology program, which will allow PJH to add an additional engineering component to their already existing program.

◆ **Region VII News from Sue Ottesen** ◆

The St. John Berchman Catholic School in Shreveport is the 2010 Louisiana Science



Olympiad State Champions. In May, the team represented Louisiana at the National Science Olympiad Tournament held at the University of Illinois at

Urbana-Champaign. Only the top sixty middle school teams from across the country advance to the National level. This year, three students from St. John's who competed in the Experimental Design event earned 5th place medals. The team is coached by **Norma Waters**, **Jo Cazes**, and **Amy Simon**.

Teachers from Caddo and DeSoto Parishes invested part of their summer participating in LaSIP and MSP projects held at Centenary College. The LaSIP project was designed to bridge the gap and make connections between middle and high school math and science teachers. Three MSP projects, each fifteen days in length, addressed the needs of third and fourth grade teachers of math and science. All MSP participants were given the option to attend either the NCTM Regional Conference in New Orleans or "Putting Science on Top," LSTA's professional development scheduled for November 4-6 in Monroe.

Sue Ottesen, Cope Middle School in Bossier City, attended the LiftOff Summer Institute at Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. LiftOff 2010 Design a Space Mission, a collaborative effort of Texas Space Grant Consortium members and affiliates, NASA, Lunar and Planetary Institute, and industry, are workshops organized around an aerospace or space science theme drawn from NASA's diverse engineering and scientific research programs. The program



combines the strengths of collaborators to enrich teaching and learning of science, mathematics, and technology. The weeklong series included workshops, hands-on activities, and field trips, featuring presentations by NASA scientists

and astronauts working on various missions. The week included presentations from engineers at Johnson Space Center featuring all phases of space mission design, from past missions to upcoming exploration missions.

Region 7 will host the Louisiana Schools Chemical Cleanup Campaign (LA SC3) on Saturday, September 11, 2010 at the Bossier Instructional Center on Airline Drive in Bossier City. The three-hour workshop presented by **Paul Johnson** and his associates will focus on classroom chemical safety practices and critical safety practices related to ordering, storing, and working with chemicals commonly found and used in K-12 science investigations and activities. The workshop is sponsored by LSTA and funded by the EPA. Participants will receive the EPA SC3 Tool Kit, a stipend, and related materials. Contact Sue Ottesen at sue2ottesen@aol.com for more information.

◆ Region VIII News from Lyndsey Ewing ◆

Congratulations to **Bill Deese** (Louisiana Tech University) for being named recipient of the 2010 Helen Free Award for Public Outreach from the American Chemical Society. Ruston High School STEM Science Program also congratulates its 2010 freshman team in taking runner-up honors at the third annual Cyber Discovery Camp and Competition held at Louisiana Tech University and bringing home a \$750 prize for the program. **Cathi Cox** (Lincoln Parish ACHIEVE) and **Missy Wooley** (Ruston High School) welcomed teachers from Winn Parish to the RHS campus for a week of STEM training and provided a presentation on both STEM and New Tech for the Winn Parish Administrators Retreat. Cathi and Missy then traveled to Indianapolis, IN, with **Sarah Wages** (Ruston High School) for a week of training for the New Tech academy opening at RHS in August. Sarah also facilitated a STEM-rich summer “bridge” experience for incoming freshmen at RHS and Cathi was named to the Leadership Team for the Intelligent Communities Project designed to target technology availability across the I-20 corridor and within the Ark-La-Tex. **Amy Guerin** (Ruston High School) attended the National Teacher Leadership Academy: Ocean in La Jolla, CA, and was named teacher for the new STEM Earth Science class beginning at Ruston Junior High School next year. **Stacy Campbell** (I. A. Lewis School) and her husband **Chris Campbell** (Simsboro High School) attended training at the Science Olympiad Summer Institute in Phoenix, AZ, and announced the first Lincoln Parish Science Olympiad Tournament to be held on January 22, 2011, at Louisiana Tech University. Chris went on to attend the Project ATMOSPHERE workshop in Kansas City, MO, where he was immersed in the comprehensive national program of teacher enhancement of the American Meteorological Society based on studies in atmospheric sciences, as well as attended the CSI Institute at Arkansas State University and Fossil Finders at Cornell. Missy completed her second year of training for the NASA Threads: Physics project at Louisiana Tech, and after attending preliminary teacher

workshops, helmed a student team from RHS at the first Animation and Visual Effects Camp at LSU-S in Shreveport. Cathi also attended a planning meeting in Washington, DC, for the 2011 Regional NSTA Conference to be held in New Orleans, before traveling to NSTA’s National Congress on Science Education held in Las Vegas, NV.



Chris Campbell and Wendy DeMers attended Project ATMOSPHERE in Kansas City, Missouri.



Missy Wooley models a lesson using shadows and colors during STEM training for Winn Parish teachers.

Educational Opportunities

A-Train Science Symposium brings workshops to New Orleans

The International A-Train Science Symposium will be held in New Orleans, October 25-28, 2010. In addition to the main science discussions, a number of activities are planned for K-12 teachers and students. These include:

- * one-day teacher workshops on remote sensing and use of satellite data in the classroom
- * school visits from A-Train scientists on Friday morning (Oct. 29)
- * a student-scientist GLOBE observation campaign
- * educational webcasts

Details will be posted on the symposium website under the Education tab:

<http://a-train-neworleans2010.larc.nasa.gov/>. Gayle Glusman is serving as the local contact for the K-12 Educational events associated with the A-Train Symposium. Gayle will send out symposium announcements and information on the registration process once school starts. You may contact her at: GayleGlusman@bellsouth.net

The ISTF: Real World Problem Solving for Grades 3-12

At a time when costs for science education programs and competitions are escalating, the Internet Science and Technology Fair (ISTF at <http://istf.ucf.edu>) continues to be offered to teachers of elementary through high school students **at no charge**. It may be used to augment existing curricula by bringing relevance to theory while adhering to guidelines based on national science standards. It may also be used as an after school STEM education program to afford student teams needed experience in problem solving, teaming, communication and reading/writing skills necessary for their continuing education. Throughout the experience, students develop important IT skills such as information acquisition, management and web based presentation. Please take a minute to see what our national student team winners accomplished this past year and help us bring the ISTF to your science educators and their students in your state. <http://istf.ucf.edu/Newcomers/>

QSM Grants: A Great Opportunity!!!

Enhance your math or science classroom with additional materials to enrich student learning through a Quality Science and Math (QSM) grant. If you are a teacher in a "regular classroom" in a Louisiana public school, you are eligible to apply for up to \$750 in funding for math and science materials. Check out the guidelines and application on the website. Go to <http://www.cain.lsu.edu> and click on QSM. You may also print out PDF files for the application and scoring rubric. Deadline for applications is Friday, September 17, 2010. You may contact the LSU Cain Center at caincenter@lsu.edu or 225-578-3322 if you have questions.

