



College Comment

TECHNOLOGY
EDUCATION
COLLEGIATE
ASSOCIATION

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2003/2004
Compiled by
Craig Harvey

President's Message

A. J. Applegarth



Welcome back to another year of academics and excitement. I hope everyone had an enjoyable and productive summer! My name is A. J. Applegarth and I am a rising senior at Virginia Tech studying Technology Education. I am honored to be serving you as the International TECA President for the 2003-2004 school year.

This past summer, the International TECA officers met in Orlando, Florida for the annual Summer Leadership Conference. Our summer conference went on during the same time as the National TSA Conference. The members of the officer team volunteered their time to help out at this conference and keep a strong bond between TECA and TSA. Aside from helping out at the TSA Conference, the officer team planned out the activities for the upcoming year and tackled the different issues that affect all TECA members. We, as a team, made some changes to the competitions and worked on making this year the best yet.

Regional Conferences will be here sooner than you think so get your calendars marked and plan on attending! For those of you competing in events, I wish you luck and hope the changes we made to the competitions cater more to your needs. If you do not plan to compete, I hope you still plan to attend. Attending these conferences is a great experience for everyone and allows you to network, make valuable contacts, and meet new people. This year the officers are planning to be present at each of the three regional conferences to support our fellow TECA members, so be on the lookout!

Once again, thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve as your TECA President and I hope this year is another successful one! If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact me at aapplega@vt.edu. See you all at the regionals and in Albuquerque!

Special points of interest:

- ✓ President's Message
- ✓ Meet your new officers
- ✓ Promo for regional conferences
- ✓ Why affiliate with TECA

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(colored pages included with this mailing)

- 1-Affiliation form
- 2-ITEA application form

66th Annual Conference
March 18-20, 2004 - Albuquerque, NM



Meet Your New TECA International Officers



A. J. Applegarth- President
Sarah Wells- President Elect
Dana Kozich- Vice President
Craig Harvey- Reporter
Adam Wilburn- Secretary

TECA Web Page Access Information

A Web site has been created to unite TECA members with information. It will help information distribution and membership awareness about TECA events and issues. Currently, only TECA Officer Information, TECA Bylaws, TECA College Comment, Affiliations Forms and Officer Nomination Forms are on the Web site. The web site is connected to the ITEA Web site. To access the page, go to ITEA's homepage (www.iteawww.org). From there, click on Member Services, and TECA is available under Council Opportunities.



5 Ways to Boost Membership in Your TECA Chapter

By: Adam Wilburn

Boosting membership can be one of the most difficult obstacles for a TECA chapter to overcome. Coming from a small program (Virginia Tech), I understand what it feels like to see the same faces every week at a TECA meeting. This article is NOT intended for those students already coming to meetings. Those students have already expressed an interest in TECA and will continue to do so. No, this article is to help each chapter grab those students who wish to see the benefits of TECA now. You know the people I'm talking about. They always say "How is joining TECA going to better my life?" You explain how great it looks on a resume (and it does look great), but to no avail, they are still not convinced to join your TECA chapter. Is all hope lost? Of course not. I wouldn't leave you on that note. The following are some suggestions to help boost membership/participation. Remember, your target member is a college student so you need to think like a college student (Would you want to go to the library to discuss TECA?).

- 1. Socials:** A good way to increase membership is to have a "TECA Night Out." This can be anywhere fun. Once or twice a month, chapters can meet at a local "establishment" to relax and develop friendships within the major. Students gel as a team easier and faster when they see each other in a relaxed environment. Try to find a place that has a "College Night" or all you can eat wings/shrimp. Remember, college students are poor so the cheaper the better!
- 2. Field Trips:** Field trips are another great way to get students to join your chapter. Each semester, try to arrange a behind the scenes tour to a technological business. Factories, power plants, textile plants, and racecar tracks are just a few ideas. Anything that is technology related will work.
- 3. Potluck Parties:** These are great ways to start and end a school year. These events are very informal and would encourage new students to come out and meet everyone in the major. Nothing is more encouraging than a free meal!
- 4. Convenient Meetings:** A common reason for students to miss a meeting is that they are too busy. One way around this is to have your meetings on Tuesday. Major assignments are usually due at the end of the week. By having the meetings at the beginning of the week, students will have less pressure from assignments and more time for extra curricular activities. Another good idea is to have the meeting following a popular class. This way students are already at the meeting place and can just stay where they are. Try to keep the meetings short; forty-five minutes to an hour at the most. Remember, most students have just finished a long day of classes; they will be less inclined to stay if they know the meeting is going to take a long time.
- 5. Bribery:** If all else fails, bribe a member to meetings. Offer incentives such as refreshments or door-prizes. Never underestimate the power of cookies and soda! After all, everyone likes a little incentive.

Regional

TECA Midwest Regional Conference

This year's TECA Midwest Regional is once again in Peoria, IL. This conference will be held November 7-8, 2003 in conjunction with the Illinois Technology Education Conference. The following contests will take place: Transportation, Manufacturing, Communications, TECA Collegiate Bowl, and Teaching Lesson Contest. On Saturday the awards will be presented to the winning teams.

For additional information contact:

Dr. Richard Seymour
Contest Coordinator
Ball State University
8504 West Thom Tree
Muncie, IN 47304
rseymour@gw.bsu.edu



See you in I

West/Southwest Regional

This year's TECA West/Southwest Regional will be held in Pittsburg State University (Pittsburg, KS). This conference will be held November 20-21, 2003 in conjunction with the Annual 4-States Conference. The following contests will take place: Transportation, Manufacturing, Communications, TECA Collegiate Bowl, and Teaching Lesson Contest.

For additional Information contact:

Andy Klenke
Pittsburg State University

Conferences

TECA East Regional Conference

The Eastern Regional Conference will be held in Virginia Beach, VA on February 20-22, 2003. There will be several TECA National Officers attending the conference this year. This will be a great opportunity to meet the national officers and express any thoughts you may have with regards to TECA on the national level. It will also be a good time to talk with current officers to better understand the responsibilities that come with a national office. This year University of Georgia will be hosting the conference. Also, if your chapter is in the eastern region, but you are not yet an affiliated chapter, come out to the conference and get some helpful information about promoting your Technology Education program! This conference will be a lot of fun and a great learning experience for all who attend.

Conferences

For hotel reservations and lodging information, please contact:

Virginia Beach Resort Hotel and Conference Center
2800 Shore Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23451
(757) 481-9000
800 468-2722
800 422-4747 (in Virginia)
Fax: (757) 496-7429



For more information on the Eastern Regional Conference please contact:

Dr. Roger Hill
University of Georgia



Does being an ITEA/TECA officer sound like something you want to do? Do you know someone who would be a good ITEA/TECA officer? Then look in coming issues for nomination forms to nominate officers for the next school year.

Summer Leadership Conference Highlights

By: Dana Kozich

Greetings TECA friends! I hope that everyone enjoyed their summers and are ready for the new school year. Your TECA officers have been busy and had the opportunity to meet in June and work together in Orlando, Florida during the national TSA conference. While at our leadership conference we discussed and organized activities for the 2003/2004 TECA schedule. We brainstormed ideas on how to make the TECA interest sessions more “interesting” for us fellow college students. We choose two topics, which are “first year experienced technology education teachers” and “bio-technology”. We hope that everyone stops by and checks them out (a little hint: everyone gets a ticket for door prizes when they attend). We also explored ideas on how to save money for our budget. We started by cutting down on printed versions of the College Comment and making the awards for the conference ourselves. We are hoping that the year brings a more accessible and interactive website too. For the competitions, we have argued and discussed the problems that had been addressed to us by all of you and came up with several solutions that we proposed to the competition’s coordinator. We focused on the college bowl’s judging and also decided to add more questions, which will be asked for all of your chapters to suggest five new questions each. We are hoping to update the tools to the manufacturing competition along with the communication competition by phasing out analog (where Media Player and Quick Time would be accepted). We also suggested that comments would be added to the scoring sheets. Those were just a few ideas that we came up with.

While at Florida we not only worked hard on TECA issues, we also helped with the national TSA conference. The TSA conference opened our eyes to what TSA is all about and the different levels of intellect and competitiveness that the students are each at. While we were there we helped set up the competitions, helped with the registration, and judged different events. We had long days interacting with the students and teachers. We learned what expectations the teachers have of their students and observed students’ reactions towards their teachers’ attitudes. The TSA competitions were a learning experience for all of us and we also had plenty fun.

Last but not least we all had the opportunity to visit the Disney theme park. Unfortunately I was unable to attend because I had to come home and take the Praxis. From what I was told though, Disney was exciting and gave them a chance to relax after all the hard work that we all put in prior. We hope that all of our efforts are worth the time and that this year runs smoothly and cheerfully. Although if anyone has any thoughts on how to improve TECA in anyway, please feel free to contact us. We are trying our best to represent you and your input is valued. I hope for you all the best and can not wait to see you in Albuquerque, New Mexico!!



TECA Officers in Orlando

International Advisors' Message

Welcome to the 2003-04 school year. This is an exciting time as new faces appear and some old faces are missed. As you get the school year underway, I would like to encourage each TECA chapter to begin their activities immediately. Certainly you will want to sponsor activities that have been successful for your chapter in the past but also try something new. Please share these activities with all of us by having your reporter send a short article to *College Comment*.

The International TECA Officers have been working for you. During the summer the officers met in Orlando and planned their Program of Work. Each has been busy following through with their assignments to insure that the organization functions for you. I am proud of each officer and each is representing you well.

TECA has recognized an increase in participation at the ITEA conference. This is exciting as each participant has the opportunity to meet and interact (network) with people from all over the world. Each also gets to see and touch cutting edge educational products and wears at the exhibitors' exposition as well as to experience the greater community where the conference is held. This year's ITEA conference is scheduled for March 18-20, 2004 in Albuquerque, New Mexico and will have even more opportunities for participants. During the conference TECA will host two special interest sessions. One session will focus on bio-related technology activities for the Technology Education classroom. The second session will have new Technology Education teachers sharing their new experiences in the classroom so we can learn from them. Begin making plans to attend now so you can take advantage of your opportunities.

This is an exciting time in the profession. The recent release of the Standards for Technology Literacy: Content for the Study of Technology and the Professional Development, Assessment, and Program Standards are serving to guide the profession. We see new developments that are addressed in these documents. In a short time the new will be just another part of the culture. It will take effort on our part to learn and implement the new. Through our efforts we will make a difference in the lives of our students.

Sincerely,
Joe R. Busby, Ed.D.

Why Affiliate with TECA?

When your school, college or university affiliates with TECA it sends a clear message about the professionalism, growth and activity of your technology education program. Affiliating with TECA provides a never ending resource for help and advice. Becoming a member of TECA will enable you to make valuable contacts with other students and teachers involved in technology education. I think that one of the most valuable things you will get from becoming a member of TECA is the relationship you will have with ITEA. TECA is the affiliated council to ITEA. I encourage every one of you to sign up with TECA. Signing up with TECA may help you find employment opportunities, provide you with a wide range of teachers who can help you throughout your technology education career, and gain long lasting friendships from students at different universities. Please feel free to contact any of the national officers with questions, comments, or suggestions on how you can become affiliated with TECA or fill out the form included in this issue of the *College Comment* and return to Dr. Joe Busby.