



College Comment



Preparing Professionals to Teach Technology.

Compiled by: Jen Schmidt

Issue 1 Sept. 2005

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The President's Message

By: Shanna Slike

Hello everyone and welcome back to another academic year! I hope you all had an enjoyable and somewhat restful summer. My name is Shanna Slike and I am currently attending Millersville University of Pennsylvania majoring in Technology Education. I am privileged to serve you as the International TECA President for the 2005-2006 school year.

This summer I had the opportunity to join the Technology Student Association (TSA) at their national conference in Chicago, IL. This was one of the more memorable conferences I have attended thus far. Not only was it the location for the TSA Nationals, but it also coincided with the TECA Leadership Conference. Aside from judging and helping out with TSA, our officer team had the chance to establish an operational plan for the upcoming academic year. Through creating a plan of initiatives we, as a team, hope to accomplish as much as we possibly can.

The TECA regional conferences will be here sooner than you think! Mark your calendars ahead of time! Representatives of the officer team will be attending all three conferences. Allow yourself the opportunity not only to compete, but network with numerous other individuals. It is never too late to meet people who will help strengthen and inspire you. You never know where that next business card of chance and mentoring is waiting!

Once again, I thank you for the privilege for allowing me to serve as your TECA International President. I wish you all the best of luck this year! Don't hesitate to contact me via email at seslike@marauder.millersville.edu! See you at regionals and at Baltimore!

International Advisor's Message

By: Dr. Peter Wright

Welcome to the new school year. I am Dr. Peter Wright and I have been the new International TECA Advisor since the ITEA Conference in Kansas City. I am a Technology Education Professor at California University of Pennsylvania with a varied background including living in several different countries and teaching Tech Ed at two different universities during the past 18 years. I strongly believe in Technology Education as a General Education subject (the study and practice of technology) for ALL students that is not a preparation for any one vocation.

I have been working closely with your 2005-2006 TECA Officers most recently at a Leadership Conference and Officer's Planning meeting that was held in conjunction with the Technology Student Association (TSA) Annual Competitions in Chicago in June. We accomplished a lot in our meetings and learned from working with the TSA staff, judges, trainers, students, and teachers. Of course we also ate out!

It is not too early to consider attending the next TECA Leadership Conference which will be in Late June 2007 in Dallas, TX. It is also not too early to think about running for an International TECA Officer position. Talk to me or any existing TECA officer about what this involves both in terms of commitments and rewards. Consider working with our New Start initiative with TSA helping set up new chapters and giving you valuable professional field experience.

Meet the New Officers

President-Elect: Rachael Lese

Hello everyone, or as we say in Pittsburgh... "Hi yinz!" I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for giving me the chance to be a TECA officer. Out of the many offices I have held before, I believe this is the most important, and will strive to do my best this year and next year! I also serve as my local chapter president so I get to work closely with members, listening to their comments and concerns for this organization.

Having met and worked with the new officers at this year's Leadership Conference in Chicago, I believe this will be one of TECA's strongest years and I am proud to be part of it! We have a lot of great plans for the future, so look out TECA!



Left to Right: Rachael Lese (President-Elect), Jason Jarrett (Vice President), Shanna Slike (President), Adrian Gaskins (Secretary), Jen Schmidt (Reporter)

Vice President: Jason Jarrett

Greetings TECA members. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for re-electing me into an officer position. Last year I served as your International Secretary and this year I am proud to serve TECA once again as the Vice President. This year I will be a senior at Millersville University. I am involved with my Local TECA chapter on campus. I am also a member of Epsilon Pi Tau, the technology honorary fraternity. I will be graduating in the spring and then teaching Technology Education at the middle school or high school level. Serving as a TECA officer is a great honor and a great experience. Thank you once again for electing this year's outstanding officer team.

Reporter: Jen Schmidt

Welcome Back! My name is Jen Schmidt and I will be serving you as the TECA reporter this year. I am very excited to be joining the officer team. I am a junior from the University of Wisconsin-Stout and a Technology Education Major.

Outside of school I enjoy hunting, fishing, woodworking, and working on my car. Four wheeling and dirt bike riding are two of my favorite outdoor activities. When I'm away from school I can be found at Buffalo Wild Wings where I spend too much time working.

This year I hope to make TECA a stronger organization by working with the other officers. I look forward to meeting everyone this year as well as working with the other officers on the 2005-2006 initiatives.

Secretary: Adrian Gaskins

Hello and welcome to another great year of TECA. My name is Adrian Gaskins. I am a senior at Clemson University majoring in Technology of Human Resource Development. I am secretary for ITEA-TECA, the president of the Clemson TECA Chapter, president of Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc., a member of SAAB, and mentor for minorities on Clemson's campus. As you can see that I am a very outgoing person and very involved; however, I am here to assist those I can. If you ever feel the need to contact me, do so at agaskin@clemson.edu. I look forward to seeing all you at the conferences!

Mark Your Calendars for the 2005-2006 Conferences!

Western Regional will be held November 11th-13th in Pittsburgh, KS.

Wait for more updates from your chapter officers on housing and competitions.

Midwest Regional will be held October 21-22 in Peoria, IL.

Wait for more information from your chapter officers on housing and competitions.

Eastern Regional will be held February 17th-19th in Virginia Beach, VA.

Wait for more updates from your chapter officers on housing and competitions.

Don't forget to plan for the ITEA Conference March 23-25 in Baltimore, MD.



Wait for updates through the College Comment throughout the year!

2005 TECA Leadership Conference

By: Scott Dillon (Central Missouri State University)

First, let me start by saying “superb work” to everyone involved with the Leadership Conference. As this was the first Leadership conference I have attended, I was not sure what to expect. However, everyone greeted me with open arms and made me feel very welcome.

During our conference sessions, on Wednesday, Hal Harrison gave a very involved lesson on team building that I am sure to never forget. Then on Thursday, Shanna Slike started the day off by giving an excellent speech at the TSA General Session. We then reassembled at the Leadership Conference and experienced Dr. Wright’s workshop entitled “Creativity” as well as Dr. Joe Busby’s workshop, “Parliamentary Procedure”. Afterwards we had guest speakers such as Kendall Starkweather, Paul Jacobs, and Ethan Lipton, the President of ITEA who all offered their words of wisdom.

When the conference had ended, I realized just how many great skills I had learned, and furthermore could take back to and apply to the already many fantastic things we were doing at Central Missouri State University. I would strongly encourage any TECA member to attend next year’s Leadership Conference. I guarantee you will learn many helpful skills and network with great people from all over the United States that share your common interests and goals as a TECA member.



Leadership Participants in the “Human Knot”.

Leadership Participants trying to figure out how to move 8 people in 9 squares.



Epsilon Pi Tau

By: Jason Jarrett

Epsilon Pi Tau (EPT) is the professional honorary society for the people in the field of technology. EPT has been providing honor and distinction to members, institutions, programs, and individuals for more than 75 years. Members receive benefits of access to EPT's informational website, newsmagazine EPT's scholarly journal, links to professional organizations, and networking opportunities. Seek out your local chapter by contacting your local TECA advisor. More information can be found on the website at:

www.epsilonpitau.org/index.cfm

TECA Website: Where is it? What's on it?

By: Rachael Lese

Searching the World Wide Web for a specific website is like driving around the world looking for a specific house; you have a general idea where it's located, but there are many detours and alternative routes that you can take. So do you take the male approach and keep driving till you find it, or take the female approach and ask for directions? Thanks to the technology we have today, with search engines; we will never have to "drive" around the web hoping we stumble across the exact site.



To find the TECA webpage, you can begin by visiting the ITEA's new homepage at www.iteaconnect.org. From there select "Council Opportunities" from the "Membership" selection on the left. A list of ITEA sub-organizations is listed on this site and the link to TECA's homepage is located there. Another way to locate TECA's homepage is to click the "Search" link at the top of the ITEA homepage and scroll down the outlined list of links until you find TECA. Now that you are there, let's talk about what you can find on the website and how you can benefit from it.

The opening page outlines the officer's name, position, e-mail address and which college they attend. Listed above the outline is a selection of links for you to explore. The first is an explanation from Michael DeMiranda on "Why you should join TECA" and how to get your money's worth. The next links are the TECA Eastern and Midwestern Region's web pages which go into depth about each region's location, competitions, registration, and contact information. If you are looking for applications to become a TECA Alumni or to affiliate a chapter, just select the links provided and the applications will appear as a PDF file. There is a link for the TECA Bylaws, but expect changes on that page very soon. (And last, but not least) If by any chance you lose this copy of the College Comment, or want to share it with others, visit the TECA College Comment link and print yourself a fresh new copy!

If you have any comments or concerns about the TECA webpage, please contact any of the officers.

Strengthen Your TECA Chapter TSA/TECA New Start Program

By: Dr. Amhrein

If your TECA chapter is looking for ways to:

- Gain hands on experience with middle or high school students
- Strengthen leadership skills
- Connect with your surrounding community
- Strengthen your network with local schools
- Develop relationships with established technology teachers

Then you need to find out more about the TSA/TECA New Start Program! This program provides an avenue for TECA chapters to do all of the above by helping to start a TSA (Technology Student Association) chapter at a middle school or high school. Funding for membership and publications is provided by TSA (while funds are available through the TSA 25th Anniversary Fund) as long as the middle or high school has either never had a TSA chapter, or has not had a TSA chapter in the last five years. Your TECA chapter provides local assistance with chapter start-up, meetings and competitions (you work out with the technology teacher exactly what kind of assistance your chapter will provide, you might hold a workshop on TSA events, host a mini competition on your campus, or agree to meet with the chapter on a monthly basis.)

This is a unique opportunity for TECA members to work directly with a middle or high school technology program, assist with the start up and structure of a TSA chapter, and gain experience in a classroom /after school setting.

To learn more about the TSA/TECA New Start Program contact Sandy Honour at shonour@tsaweb.org or at 888/860-9010 (toll free) or any TECA Officer.

TECA Plans for 2005-2006

By: Jason Jarrett

Over the last year TECA as a whole has made great progress as an organization. This year's officer team plans to take the goals and objectives of last year one step further. We will continue to work with TSA on the New Start Program, getting new high school and middle school chapters around the country. The TECA Alumni organization is off to a good start and hopefully by the end of this year membership will be up and we as students will be able to use these professionals as valuable resources in our training. One of TECA's main goals this year is to get all universities and colleges that have the Technology Education departments to start a chapter.

We also have some new initiatives that have been underway since the Leadership Conference this summer. Sometime this fall two TECA officers will be traveling to California State University in Los Angeles to help their technology programs start a TECA chapter. We are all greatly looking forward to this opportunity.

Your TECA officers will be attending and in some cases participating in the regional conferences throughout this upcoming year. This gives every TECA member a great chance to ask questions and network with many people. Please take advantage of this. Lastly, we as an officer team encourage everyone to make plans to attend the ITEA conference in Baltimore this spring. If you have any questions or comments on TECA's initiatives for this year please feel free to contact me at: jajarret@marauder.millersville.edu.

FAX ////////////// or E-mail ////////////// FAX

2005-2006 TECA Affiliation Form

College/University: _____ Date: _____

Department/Program Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Advisor: _____ Co-Advisor(s): _____

E-mail: _____ E-mail: _____

Contact Phone Number(s): _____

Name of Club/Chapter/Organization: _____

President: _____ Vice-President: _____

E-mail: _____ E-mail: _____

Secretary: _____ Treasurer: _____

E-mail: _____ E-mail: _____

Reporter: _____ Other: _____

E-mail: _____ E-mail: _____

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Note: We will establish and use a listserv for the Officers. This is to help in the dissemination of information (e.g. newsletter, conference information, awards information) and to facilitate communications between the officers of the different chapters. Please provide accurate student contact information in a legible format.

FAX ////////////// or E-mail ////////////// FAX



Envisioning Technology Education's Future Through TECA

Interest Session Follow-Up

By: Jerianne Taylor

Alumni

Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

TECA Alumni and current members united at the ITEA National Conference to discuss ideas related to supporting the current TECA membership in an interest session. The interest session brought together professionals in Technology Education and allowed them to discuss how TECA had benefited their careers. The session started by Phillip Reed, Hal Harrison, Rod Thompson, and Mike Fitzgerald sharing how they felt TECA had contributed to their professional growth and success in the profession. The session continued with brainstorming that allowed all those involved to share ideas related to working with alumni and developing leadership skills in the current TECA membership. Some ideas presented at the end of the session included:

1. Develop a listserv for TECA Alumni
2. Special gatherings at state and national conferences for TECA and TECA Alumni
3. Recruit TECA Alumni as judges for regional and national conferences
4. Establish a network to allow TECA members to shadow TECA Alumni
5. Have TECA Alumni conduct interest sessions for TECA conferences
6. Establish a fund to support TECA members in leadership endeavors
7. Establish TECA representation in all ITEA Councils

Most of the ideas presented during the session focused around two main themes: service and networking. These two elements are the backbone of most successful teachers and professionals. A teacher's love of their discipline and children allow them to be successful. While service to the profession allows one to give back to the profession. This will in turn allow one to leave a trail. The TECA Alumni can provide this opportunity for its graduates and ITEA professionals. It is important that we all get involved.

Additional ideas were presented in the interest session and are also in the process of being initiated. Everyone in attendance was excited about the opportunities presented and how TECA could grow through these endeavors. It is important that the TECA Alumni step up and assist the next generation of technology educators. It is also important for current TECA members to seek Alumni assistance. This will allow both groups to grow and provide the best learning opportunities for children!

The last page of every TECA College Comment is now reserved for TECA Alumni Members to contribute their thoughts and ideas. If you wish to contribute, just email your inspirational thoughts to Jen Schmidt, International TECA Reporter at schmidtjen@uwstout.edu.

Thank you, Jerianne Taylor for contributing to the first Alumni Page.