



College Comment



Preparing Professionals to Teach Technology.

Issue 2 Oct. 2005

Compiled by: Jen Schmidt

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*If any one has an event that they would like advertised or would like to contribute to the College Comment, please send the information to Jen Schmidt at schmidtjen@uwstout.edu in Microsoft Word format. Label the email CC Article in the subject line.

*In the September 2005 issue of the College Comment, the article TECA/TSA New Start Program was written by Sandy Honour, not Mr. Amhrein.



President-Elect's Message

By: Rachael Lese

Hello everyone! By now, you have all got back into the school routine and things are running smoothly with your chapters. As most of you know, one of our key focuses is to expand Technology Education throughout the world. A good start to accomplishing this would be to work together as a team! Work closely with your chapter, communicate with neighboring schools, and network throughout the country. As you become more involved in the expansion of Technology Education, you should hopefully find yourself "Bridging the Gap" between TSA (Technology Student Association) and ITEA (International Technology Education Association). These organizations are a part of our past, present and future as educators and the stronger they get, the stronger we get!

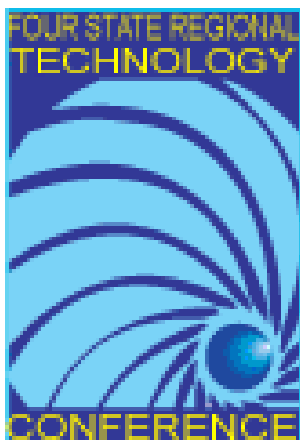
I also encourage you all to attend our upcoming Regional Conferences, and the ITEA International Conference held in Baltimore, MD. TECA and ITEA continually provide great opportunities to experience professional development. These conferences are for you to network, and establish a never ending support of help and advice with people who have paved the paths for you or are enduring the same grueling PRAXIS tests. Use this time wisely and I look forward to seeing you all at select conferences and Baltimore!

Conference Dates and Events

Midwest Regional: October 21-22 in Peoria, IL. The conference is held in conjunction with the Illinois state conference. You can expect to take part in or be a spectator at the following competitions: DEPCO Teaching lesson, TECA Technology Challenge (Sponsored by Goodheart-Wilcox Publishers) SME/TECA Live Manufacturing Contest, Kelvin Technologies Transportation Contest, PITSCO/TECA Problem Solving Competition, and the McGraw-Hill Higher Education Live Communication Contest. For details see the website <http://www.bsue.edu/classes/seymour/midwest.htm>. This is also where you will be able to find the housing and registration forms for this conference.



The pool area at the Holiday Inn City Centre, Peoria, IL courtesy of <http://www.bsue.edu/classes/seymour/midwest.htm>



Western Regional: November 17-18 in Pittsburg, KS. (the dates from the Sept. Issue are incorrect, sorry for any confusion.) This conference is held in conjunction with the Four States Conference. You can expect to take part in or be a spectator at the following competitions: DEPCO Teaching lesson, TECA Technology Challenge (Sponsored by Goodheart-Wilcox Publishers) SME/TECA Live Manufacturing Contest, Kelvin Technologies Transportation Contest, PITSCO/TECA Problem Solving Competition, and the McGraw-Hill Higher Education Live Communication Contest. For additional activities related to the four states conference, please visit <http://www.pittstate.edu/tech/fsrtc/index.htm>.

Image courtesy of <http://www.pittstate.edu/tech/fsrtc/index.htm>.

Conference Dates and Events (Cont'd)



Image courtesy of TECA East (<http://www.tecaeast.org>)

Eastern Regional: February 16-18 in Virginia Beach, VA. (the dates from the Sept. Issue are incorrect, sorry for any confusion.) You can expect to take part in or be a spectator at the following competitions: DEPCO Teaching lesson, TECA Technology Challenge (Sponsored by Goodheart-Wilcox Publishers) SME/TECA Live Manufacturing Contest, Kelvin Technologies Transportation Contest, PITSCO/TECA Problem Solving Competition, and the McGraw-Hill Higher Education Live Communication Contest. Don't forget to check the TECA East Website for any trial competitions!

ITEA Conference: March 23-25 in Baltimore, MD. So far for this conference there will be the expected competitions including the Tech Challenge, the SME/TECA Manufacturing Contest Finals, the DEPCO Teaching Lesson Contest, TECA/Kelvin Technologies Transportation Contest Finals, the PITSCO Problem Solving Contest, and finally the McGraw-Hill Higher Education TECA Live Communication Contest. Also don't forget to make time to attend the interest sessions including the First Year Teacher Teacher's Forum and "How TECA is Advancing the Standards for Technological Literacy" both of which are put on by TECA. For more information and Registration forms please visit <http://www.iteaconnect.org/D.html>.



Image courtesy of ITEA (<http://www.iteaconnect.org>)



Image courtesy of Virginia TSA (<http://www.vatsa.org/conferences/nationals.htm>)

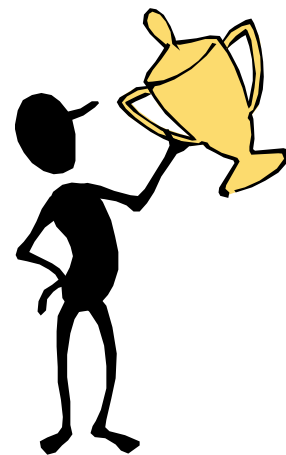
2006 Leadership Conference: (held in conjunction with the TSA National Conference) is open to any who wishes to attend. The conference is held in Dallas, TX at the Adam's Mark-Dallas Hotel and Conference Center June 22-25, 2006. More information and sign up forms will follow in the January issue of the College Comment.

***TECA needs presenters for this conference. For details, see page 8 of this issue!**

The TECA Awards

(Award Descriptions from College Comment issue Jan. 2005)

The TECA Awards are like the academy awards for college students in this organization. It is very important that the awards be given to individuals that are best portrayed by the description below. I challenge every chapter to complete one nomination form so that we can be sure that an award is given out from each category. I know that there are many deserving individuals for each award given, so let's make the selection process especially tough this year. Note that the nomination forms are on page 8. Please complete it and send it to Dr. Wright at the address specified.



TECA AWARD OF DISTINCTION

This is the highest award given by TECA. It is presented for dedication to academic achievement (3.0 on a 4.0 scale), involvement of significant merit in ITEA/TECA affairs, and professional development. Factors involved in this award include improvement of TECA at the international organization. An individual can receive this award only once.

TECA OUTSTANDING CHAPTER SERVICE AWARD

This is the second highest award presented by TECA. It is made for significant dedication, academic achievement (2.75 on a 4.0 scale), and the professional development of an individual in the local chapter. The nomination is made by the affiliated chapter to foster technology education through local activities. An individual can receive this award only once.

TECA/ITEA MEMBERSHIP AWARD

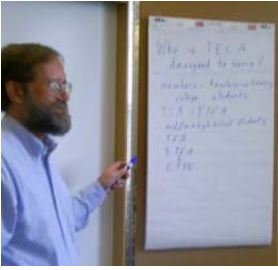
This award is presented to a chapter or person who has achieved the greatest relative gain in membership. The ratio of potential members to actual members may be used to determine the award recipient in order to eliminate any bias due to school or department size. An individual that has contributed to membership growth may also be eligible.

TECA DISTINGUISHED FACULTY ADVISOR AWARD

This is a rare and outstanding award, comparable to the ITEA College Leadership Award. This award is given to a chapter advisor who has exhibited high dedication to TECA and the field of technology education. The individual must have displayed a high degree of involvement in college student affairs and high professional standards at both the chapter and international levels. Only one award may be given per year, and it does not have to be presented each year. An individual can receive it only once.

OUTSTANDING CHAPTER AWARD

The recipient of this award will be judged on several criteria. The institution should display exemplary activity in (a) chapter service to the local, state, and/or international organizations, (b) professional activities which the chapter has either engaged in or initiated, (c) promotional activities for the professional of technology teacher education, (e) and/or similar activities.



Dr. Wright Talking about who TECA is designed to serve.

Fall Planning Meeting

By: Rachael Lese

On September 24, 2005, the national officers of TECA and myself were hard at work at California University of Pennsylvania for our annual Fall Planning Meeting. The officers safely arrived at California, PA the Friday before and spent the rest of the day and night relaxing preparing for the long 12 hour day ahead.

The meeting began with a three hour seminar on Strategic Planning and the Role of TECA by our national advisor, Dr. Peter Wright. We accomplished a lot by answering questions as a group, such as: who is TECA designed to serve, what does TECA do for the previous listed organizations, and what do we feel is the purpose of TECA is? It was amazing to see how each officer has similar visions for TECA and is on the same page for what has to be done for the future. After a brief lunch break, we were back to work!

For the remaining day and night, we talked about each conference, competition, and responsibility/duty of each officer in full detail. We accomplished so much work at this meeting and hope that it shows at the upcoming conferences and competitions! I just want to send out a special thanks to everyone who made this Fall Planning meeting possible and look forward to having many successful meetings like this in the future!



The officers hard at work:
Top: Rachael Lese, President-Elect & Jason Jarrett, Vice President.
Bottom: Adrian Gaskins, Secretary & Shanna Slike, President



Front (left to right) Jen Schmidt, Reporter; Rachael Lese, President-Elect; Dr. Wright, Advisor.
Back (left to right) Shanna Slike, President; Adrian Gaskins, Secretary; Jason Jarrett, Vice President

Join Our Officer Team!

By: Jen Schmidt

Why participate in TECA at the international level? Is there time between classes, friends, and trips home? Of course there is. In actuality there is only a small time commitment required for each position from President to Reporter. So why do something that will add more to my list of things to do? This is one thing I had to ask myself around this time last year when I was encouraged to run by my local advisor.

As an officer, several opportunities are laid before you. First there is professional development. It is easier to learn the ropes of the professional world before you are rudely thrown into it after graduation. Also, having the words International TECA Officer on your resume is sure to score some bonus points with future employers.

Second, you can take pride that you are part of a team of people that work together to make TECA a better, stronger organization for the years to come. Third, you are given an opportunity to meet so many individuals that can either give you advice, become a pen pal, and those that just might be worthy to be a mentor for you. When you start teaching, having literally a stack of business cards with phone numbers and addresses can be advantageous because these people that have given you their personal information want you to contact them with questions on lesson content, or just what works best in the classroom.

Lastly, there are the fun opportunities that arise when you participate in TECA at the international level. These are what I call the perks of being an officer and come both during and after the work is done. You are able to meet a lot of people and make many new friendships, which is part of what college is about. Also there is the opportunity to travel to regional, international, and the leadership conference over the summer.

You only have until November 1st to make your decision. If you have any questions about running for an office or would like information contact one of the officers whose email addresses are listed on the TECA website. They will be more than happy to fill you in on the details. Just remember that if you do decide to run for a position, "the worst that can happen is that you win." (Dr. Joe Busby)

Top Ten Reasons to Run for an ITEA/TECA Office

10. To have fun!!!
9. Attend conferences and workshops!
8. Learn how to be a leader!
7. Write articles for the *College Comment* -- TECA's Newsletter!
6. Learn how to speak in front of people!
5. Meet a lot of new people!
4. Travel to visit other chapters!
3. Learn how to work as a team!
2. To influence the TECA regional and ITEA/TECA international conferences!
1. You are able to reach out your hand and help Technology Education grow!



NOMINATION FORM

Directions: Each chapter can nominate up to two candidates for TECA international office. The candidate(s) are to be members of the local TECA chapter and ITEA.

For **PRESIDENT-ELECT**: (Nominate a Freshman or Sophomore, who then serves as the President-elect the first year and President before graduation.)

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____

For **VICE-PRESIDENT**: (Nominate a Junior or lower)

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____

For **SECRETARY**: (Nominate a Junior or lower)

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____

For **REPORTER**: (Nominate a Junior or lower)

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____

**Please include a BRIEF BIOGRAPHY and a DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPH of each nominee with this nomination form. The biography should include the nominee's telephone number, mailing address, and e-mail address. We will publish all available biographies and photos in the January edition of the *College Comment*. Biographies and photographs will be posted on the TECA web site which is listed under the ITEA web site. Campaigning by the candidates can begin after: 1) submission of all documents, 2) notification by the International Advisor, 3) November 1, 2005.

Forms must be submitted by: January 23, 2006

Your Name: _____ E-mail: _____

TECA Chapter Name: _____

Please e-mail (as a word document) to: wright_p@cup.edu

Snail mail or FAX if necessary to:

Dr. Peter H. Wright, TECA International Advisor

AET Department, #64

California University of PA

Phone: 724-938-4031

California, PA 15419

Fax: 724-938-4572

Advisors: Please share this information with your TECA students!



**Annual TECA Awards 2006
Nomination Form**



For the Award of Distinction (International Leadership)

Student's Name: _____

Address/e-mail: _____

For the Outstanding Chapter Service Award (Local Chapter Leadership)

Student's Name: _____

Address/e-mail: _____

For the Distinguished Advisor Award (Faculty Award)

Advisor's Name: _____ School: _____

Address/e-mail: _____

For the ITEA/TECA Membership Award

Student Name or Chapter: _____

Address/e-mail: _____

For the Outstanding Chapter Award (Any Active Chapter)

Chapter Name: _____

Address/e-mail: _____

*****PLEASE INCLUDE A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF
EACH NOMINEE WITH NOMINATION*****

Please Mail, FAX or E-mail by February 23, 2006

Mail: Dr. Peter H. Wright, TECA International Advisor
AET Department, #64
California University of PA
California, PA 15419

Phone: 724-938-4031

Fax: (715) 232-4572

E-mail: wright_p@cup.edu

(Please make TECA AWARDS the subject)



Alumni **Attention all TECA Alumni Members:**

**TECA is looking for presenters for the
2006 Leadership Conference in**

Dallas, TX. If you are interested, please contact Dr. Peter Wright.

Mail: AE7 Dept. #64

Phone: (724) 938-8480

California University of PA

E-mail: wright_p@cup.edu

California, PA 15419

If you would like to submit an article to be featured in later issues of the College Comment or if you have any questions, please email them to Jen Schmidt at schmidtjen@uwstout.edu. Each issue will feature as many as I can include in one issue.

Mike Fitzgerald (Indiana), Kenneth Starkman, and Chris Merrill, thank you all for the support and ideas.

Sincerely,

2005-2006 TECA Officers

How TECA Benefits Its Members

By: Dr. Chris Merrill-Illinois State University

As an undergraduate student, TECA allowed me to develop leadership skills that helped to serve me in my career. As a TECA advisor now, I can readily see the impacts of what TECA has to offer technology education majors. I have seen my students grow from being silent participants to active members. TECA allows for a collegial relationship that goes well beyond the university. In my opinion, TECA members develop life-long, professional friendships, which no other student-based organization can offer.





Alumni

TECA's Early Years at UW Stout

By: Ken Starkman, President - Elect of ITEA and works at the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

While I was a student at the University of Wisconsin - Stout 83'-87' technology education was just becoming a popular curriculum in area high schools and middle schools. There were about 25 technology education and industrial arts majors that graduated in 87'.

During the years I was working on my technology teaching major the four year industrial arts program plan changed three times. The changes involved the transition from industrial arts education to technology education. I became involved in TECA my freshman year as did most of the freshman class. I did not get involved much beyond some fund raising for our organization the first year. I do distinctly remember selling roast beef sandwiches during October homecoming weekend to raise funds for TECA. It was a cool weekend and the hot roast beef sure tasted good in that weather! I think we made about \$20 since the volunteer workers consumed much of the profit!

TECA was always a good time. I participated at one TECA national event and connected our TECA group when I was a graduate student with Odyssey of the Mind (OM) as well. We went to Boulder, Colorado for OM and have many good memories of that trip. We had to design a hydraulic powered vehicle that would travel through space to collect some objects. The power source we used was compressed air from a SCUBA tank that was converted to hydraulic pressure by a commercial unit called a HEYPAC (<http://www.heypac.com>). I remember driving down the highway in Menomonie and Richard Manor, a fellow classmate yelling "stop the car." He then leaped out of the car and picked up some broken lumber that was laying near the curb - we were on a budget to build all of our TECA related gizmo's. Just about everything was scavenged, designed and then built and tested. Again, the journey was a blast and many good relationships were developed through TECA. How can one forget the cross county trips and all the good stories. TECA was the right mix of serious and challenging, and social fun.

TECA helped everyone form the leadership skills needed by adults who are placed in situations to lead others. We had to get the job done. I know Mr. Manor has received numerous grants and is currently watching a new technology education facility being built at his school, he has leadership skills. I believe TSA and all of the Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSO's) do



a very good job in building leadership abilities in young people. Too many times we look at the related competitions but they are only one avenue on the journey to building leadership. Congratulations to all who are making TECA great today.