



College Comment



Preparing Professionals to Teach Technology.

Compiled by: Tiffanie Payne

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Mandatory Registration at TECA Nationals

By: TECA President, Rachael Lese

It has come to our attention that some participants of our International TECA Competitions in the past have not registered for the ITEA Annual Conference. Although it was never strictly enforced before, we are making a few changes that you should make note of. First, you **MUST** be a registered member of ITEA in order to participate in any TECA International Competition. If you have noticed on the ITEA registration application, TECA members pay at most \$55 if you are an ITEA member (another \$35) and register before February 10, 2007, or \$100 if you are not an ITEA member and register after February 10, 2007. As a college student, I do understand how it feels to be broke and not be able to afford a \$100 registration fee, but look at the price we pay as college students compared to others attending the conference! You are receiving the same benefits from ITEA, such as The Technology Teacher, full conference attendance privileges, and access to the restricted web site and information, as everyone else who registers, except you pay less than ¼ of the price!



ITEA's 69th Annual Conference in
San Antonio, TX on March 15-17, 2007

International Officer Promo

By: Scott Stahl

When the President of the Millersville chapter of TECA asked for volunteers to run for a position as an International Officer few hands shot into the air. The Millersville chapter was fortunate enough to have two International Officers in their presence. The two of them shared the numerous experiences they gained as part of the team and immediately my interests were piqued. Becoming an International Officer yields many rewarding experiences.

Among the many benefits of joining the team is the contacts that are made. These contacts are both students in the field as well as professionals who may someday be looking to hire a motivated Technology Education Teacher.

There are also several conferences that the officer team attends throughout the year including the Annual Leadership Conference. The past leadership conference was held in Dallas, Texas where many of the officers were actually offered jobs! International Officers are also present at the annual ITEA conference which will be held in San Antonio this coming March. As can be seen from just these two conferences, International Officers are presented with a great opportunity to travel as well as make contacts.

Another benefit of becoming an officer is the ability to see what goes on behind the scenes and to be able to take part in the decision-making process. This speaks wonders for an individual's leadership ability which makes a prospective employee much more marketable.

Becoming an international officer is a great opportunity for anyone looking to further their professional development as well as have a great time! Not only are officers presented with the capability to meet new and lifelong contacts, but they are also able to see some of the country almost for free! Don't miss out on the opportunity of a lifetime; become an International Officer!



TECA International Officers 2006 from left: Matt Brinkman, *President-Elect*, Erica Frazier, *Secretary*, Dr. Peter Wright, *Advisor*, Tiffanie Payne, *Reporter*, Scott Stahl, *Vice President*, Rachael Lese, *President*.



**TECA STUDENT
INTERNATIONAL OFFICER
NOMINATION FORM**



Directions: Each chapter can nominate up to two candidates for TECA international office unless the current President-Elect is from that school in which case they can nominate one only. 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**

Forms must be submitted by: January 30, 2007

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

California, PA 15419

Phone: 724-938-4031

Fax: 724-938-4572

Advisors: Please share this information with your TECA students!

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!

(Information taken partially from an article written by Tausha Reeves, Nebraska VICA Secondary Vice President)

The Officer duties and descriptions are listed in Article 4 of the Bylaws at

<http://www.iteaconnect.org/Membership/Councils/TECABylaws.pdf>.

Ask any current or past TECA Officer about what is involved. If you don't know any, the current officers can be reached through www.iteaconnect.org at <http://www.iteaconnect.org/Membership/Councils/TECA.htm>.

You can also read old College Comments off of that page to get an idea of the International Officers' activities. TECA has a budget to help offset travel costs, although being an officer is in no way a "free ride".

Go for it. A short paragraph and a digital picture is not hard to come up with!



College Spotlight



Millersville University

TECA

By Luke Herron

The TECA chapter at Millersville University of Pennsylvania has approximately 50 students that join each year. Millersville TECA is comprised mainly of Technology Education majors but occasionally Industrial Technology and Occupational Safety and Environmental Health majors join the club.

The Millersville Chapter does a variety of activities. The biggest event of the year is usually the Regional TECA Conference at Virginia Beach. MU students love to compete in the various competitions at the conference. The problem forms not from finding people to fill the entry slots, but in how to get them all to the competition.

Annual service projects for the members include building toys for toddlers as gifts (dubbed Toys for Tots) and cleaning a two mile stretch of road outside of Millersville (called Adopt-A-Highway). Also in the works is the design and construction of two hands-on learning center exhibits at the Lancaster Science Factory. The LSF is a new science and technology center opening in Lancaster City in 2007.

A fresh fundraising technique for the program this year will be selling raffle tickets to students at Millersville to win one of a multitude of prizes. The prizes will be donated gifts from local businesses.

The most enjoyable part of Millersville TECA is the camaraderie between its members. For most, the bi-weekly TECA meetings seem more like a luncheon with friends since pizza is supplied for all the members. After all, TECA is a great place to meet your future co-workers, why not make them your friends.

Officers ' Fall Planning Meeting

By Matt Brinkman, TECA President-Elect

The TECA fall planning meeting was held at California University of PA. There the officers discussed and came up with many great ideas for the upcoming year. All of the officers and our advisor were present. The officers met all day Saturday and then went out to eat and got to see and tour a little bit of Pittsburgh. We determined which officers were to represent TECA at each of the regional conferences. We also discussed the ITEA Task Force groups that we will be assigned to. All of the officers were excited to get the year under way and could not wait to start working on things to better TECA and the affiliated groups. The officers also got the TECA website updated and are continuing to work on it. We also made a phone call to Dr. Joe Busby to ask him about our two sessions at the ITEA conference. Overall, the Fall Planning Meeting was very successful and the officers accomplished so much. We are looking forward to the regional conferences and the national conference as well.

New TECA Officer E-mails

Recently new e-mails have been created for each TECA officer. These e-mail addresses will be passed on to future TECA officers.

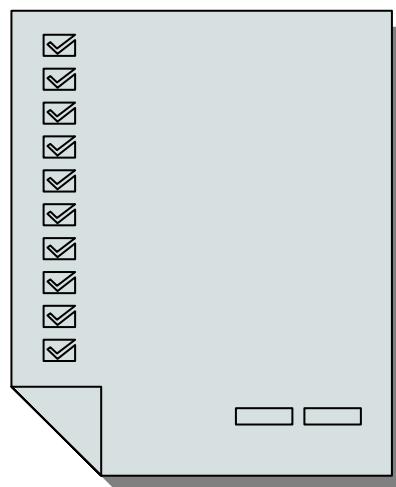
President (Rachael Lese)	TECAPresident@gmail.com
Vice President (Scott Stahl)	TECAVicePresident@gmail.com
President-Elect (Matt Brinkman)	TECAPresidentElect@gmail.com
Secretary (Erica Frazier)	TECASecretary@gmail.com
Reporter (Tiffanie Payne)	TECAReporter@gmail.com

So drop us a line; we hope to hear from you!

Affiliated TECA Chapters 2006 - 2007

There has been some confusion on the schools who are affiliated with TECA, so here is our most updated list as of Oct. 10, 2006.

Appalachian State University
Ball State University
Bowling Green State University (still need officer e-mails)
Brigham Young University
California University of PA
Clemson University
Fort Hays State University
Georgia Southern University
Illinois State University
Indiana State University
Millersville University of PA
Montana State University
North Carolina State University
Old Dominion University
Pittsburg State University
Purdue University
South Western Oklahoma State University
State University of New York at Oswego
The College of New Jersey
University of Central Missouri
University of Idaho
University of Wisconsin - Stout
University of Wyoming/Casper College Center
Utah State University
Virginia Tech University (Advisor only)
Wayne State College



Student Teaching

Rachael Lese

TECA President

How many times have you sat through class and wondered to yourself, “When am I ever going to use this material?”? After three years of sitting through classes ranging from Manufacturing, CAD, and Electronics to Structures, I asked myself that question everyday! It wasn’t until I started student teaching in August that I suddenly realized that I **needed** everything I learned at California University of PA’s Technology Education program. I actually found myself rummaging through my old notes from college and even high school! (Thank god I’m a compulsive organizer and pack rat!)

In Cal’s technology education program, we are placed in two schools: High school, and middle/elementary school. My first placement is at Canon McMillan High School teaching Graphics Communications and Photography. I chose this placement because I thought I knew enough to teach these classes, but I was horribly mistaken! No matter how much you believe you know you never know enough! As a student teacher, you have to spend countless hours researching specific material in depth, forming an hour long lesson, and then doing it all over again the next day. Trust me when I say that student teaching is a full-time job. So say good-bye to your late night TV shows, and your after school social life, and say hello to long hours of lesson planning, and bottles of Airborne!

One characteristic I have that many thought would hurt me is that I have a lot of patience. (Everyone was correct!) My morning “angel” classes are very mellow but as the day progresses, students turn into “little devils”! My last period class, I believe, has a game going on to see how far they can push my patience (and trust me, students are smarter than they appear and can easily pick out your flaws and test them to the maximum). My second week, I asked them to draw universal logos, and some students drew some hysterical yet inappropriate signs (the college student side of me came out I couldn’t help but laugh...first mistake). Through student teaching, you might notice yourself going in as a college student and coming out as a mature adult and professional teacher... I know I am. As of last week, my little devils pushed their limits and thanks to them I now have experience calling parents and writing detention slips. (Some words of advice... most times, the students you give detention to are

used to them and actually enjoy them, so call home and avoid all that paperwork!)

On a more positive note, there is no better learning experience for education than student teaching! Although you might get a lot of criticism from your cooperating teacher and/or your university supervisor (which is really hard to take everyday), just remember that they are helping you and making you the best teacher you can be! Everyone's experience is entirely different, so make the best out of **your** student teaching. So just remember:

Take your vitamins and drink your Airborne

Tape your favorite late night TV shows

Call parents before assigning detentions

And approach everyday with a smile because you **will** remember your student teaching experience for the rest of your life!

Enjoy this student teaching article? Look forward to a first-year experience article next issue!





**Annual TECA Awards 2007
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 (Percentage increase in membership)

Student Name or Chapter: _____

Address/e-mail: _____

For the Outstanding Chapter Award (Any Active Chapter)

Chapter Name: _____

Address/e-mail: _____

*****PLEASE INCLUDE A BRIEF RATIONALE FOR
EACH NOMINEE WITH NOMINATION***
Please Mail, Fax, or E-mail by February 19, 2007**

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)

TECA Awards

TECA Award of Distinction (ITEA Award) (Individual)

For dedication to academic achievement and involvement of significant merit in ITEA/TECA

TECA Outstanding Chapter Service Award (Individual)

For dedication to academic achievement and Professional Development in the local TECA chapter

Outstanding Chapter Award (Chapter)

For the display of exemplary activity in chapter service, professional activities, and promotion of the profession of Technology Teacher Education.

TECA Distinguished Advisor Award (Faculty)

For exhibiting dedication to TECA and the field of technology education by displaying a high degree of involvement in college student affairs and professional standards.

TECA/ITEA Membership Award (Chapter)

For achieving the greatest relative gain in membership.

Alumni Article

Cody Valdez

I am glad to have the opportunity to write this article for the College Comment and share with you my experiences as part of ITEA and TECA. I have been a member of both organizations since 2002 and I have gained a greater understanding of the field of Technology Education because of my membership.

I have recently graduated from Utah State University and I am currently teaching at Spring Creek Middle School in Providence, UT. The knowledge gained through my education at Utah State as well as my participation in the various activities associated with Engineering and Technology Education has greatly prepared me for this new experience.

Throughout my college experience, I was an active member of our local TECA-affiliated club on campus at Utah State. This club has proven to be very vital in my role as a technology educator. At Utah State, the club is called TEEC (Technology and Engineering Education Club) and we were actively involved in the campus community. Events that we participated in included prize launchers at many various sporting events, participation in many homecoming events, and also campus recruiting activities. Through my participation in these activities, I have taken three key issues and have applied them to my everyday teaching routine.

First is leadership. Serving in various club officer positions, I had the opportunity to serve others and help organize activities for students in the club as well as campus-wide activities for all students. The leadership experience that I gained taught me a lot about how to become a better teacher. Each day in the classroom, we must be leaders. We are there to help the students of today to become the leaders of tomorrow. What better way to do that than by showing leadership responsibility as well as by allowing the students in the classroom to take on leadership roles. By giving them the responsibilities today, we are helping them grow to prepare for their future careers.

Second is knowledge. By being an active member of TEEC, I was able to gain a greater understanding of Technology and Engineering Education and better prepare myself for a future in education. Our club has great leadership and great participation. Each member has the ability to share their own knowledge and experiences with each other on a daily basis. The members are always working together on projects and assignments for class and are often well ahead of other students who are not involved in club activities. In addition, we have a great relationship with each of the professors in our department on campus. This proves to be very beneficial to us as club members because we get an opportunity to associate with the professors outside of the classroom. Students get an opportunity to feel more comfortable with the professors which allows us to gain a greater understanding of our field. At Utah State, the students are very fortunate to have such great support from all faculty and staff as

well as from our advisor, Dr. Gary Stewardson. He has dedicated a lot of time and effort to help this club achieve such high goals each year. I think I can speak for all members of the TEEC in saying to him, "Thank you for your support and knowledge you have given to us!" The knowledge gained through the active participation will be readily reflected in our teaching in the institutions where we will be employed.

Third is friendship. Getting involved in organizations while at college is a great way to make new friends and create lifelong memories. Through the many meetings, study groups, and socials, we have been given the opportunity to create a wide network of friends and colleagues. Everyone needs a friend. The participation in organizations such as ITEA and TECA provides us all with great friendships that often span the globe. As teachers, we must allow our students in the classroom this same opportunity to make friends. We must be friendly to them as we help them learn, and they must also be given the opportunity to work cooperatively with their friends.

These three keys will not only help us succeed as teachers, but they will also help prepare our students for a future full of success. We can make a difference in our students' lives. By participating in the various clubs offered to us while we are still in school, we will be able to take the knowledge gained into the classroom as teachers.

