



College Comment



Preparing Professionals to Teach Technology.

Issue 3 April 2006
Compiled by: Jen Schmidt

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Thanks to everyone who has contributed an article this year. If your chapter does anything outstanding over the summer break, send a write up of the activity and its effects on your chapter to Tiffanie Payne, tipa@cc.usu.edu.



International Advisor's Report

By Peter Wright

This has been a great year for TECA. We had an outstanding officer team during 2005-2006 that accomplished many objectives and really displayed dedication and professionalism. I would like to personally thank Shanna Slike, Jason Jarrett, Adrian Gaskins, Jen Schmidt and Rachael Lese for all of their efforts. Adrian was not able to attend ITEA, but we all missed him and his many contributions. We also have what seems like another great group of officers taking over. They will start planning their agenda and activities in Dallas in June.

TECA Officers gained approval for Revisions to the Bylaws at the Management Board Meeting. They now must go to the chapters for approval so you will be receiving them soon to vote on. The TECA/TSA New Start Program really took wing this year with a number of TECA Chapters helping to start TSA chapters in local schools. This strengthens the whole profession and provides TECA members with valuable experiences and contacts.

We also held a successful Officers' Planning Meeting and Leadership Conference in conjunction with the TSA Annual Conference in Chicago. Our officers met for a Fall Planning Meeting and we sent at least two officers to each of last year's three regional competitions. An exciting note for the future is that the West region is being split into a West Region and a Southwest Region, so there will be four regional competitions next year.

You should plan to attend this year's leadership conference in Dallas in conjunction with the TSA Annual Conference. We will meet all day on June 23rd and 24th so plan to arrive on the 22nd and leave on the 25th. It is not too early to ask your Deans or other sponsors to support the travel expenses to send one or more representative to this conference. A variety of leadership opportunities will be available including leadership training sessions, work with professional TSA leadership training, judging national events and meeting with TSA and ITEA leaders. Of course, I will be sending more information by e-mail soon.

Start Planning Now to Attend the Leadership Conference!
June 22-25th, Dallas, Texas

Reflections from the 2005-2006 TECA Officers



President-Elect: Rachael Lese

This year was a great year for me to be President-Elect because I got to serve and learn under one of the best Presidents that I have encountered, Shanna Slike. She showed me a great deal of organization and how to run this organization. I think one of the best skills I gained from her was not to procrastinate! Shanna got things done when they had to get done, and in the end everyone was happy. Of course a President is nothing without his/her officer team. This past officer team bonded so well we were sad to say goodbye at conferences! With everything we accomplished this year with each conference and competition, I can't wait to pick up where we left off!

Vice President: Jason Jarrett

First, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for letting me serve TECA for the last two years as an International officer. First, I was your Secretary then your Vice President. Serving TECA has been a once in a lifetime experience for me. Through TECA I was given many opportunities to travel around the country, meet many wonderful individuals, and do many amazing things. I was able to grow as a professional, as a teacher, and as a person. My last two years with TECA have been the most enjoyable years of my college life.

Over those years the organization has made huge steps forward. The relationships between TSA, TECA, and ITEA have been greatly strengthened. The TECA Alumni association and the TECA fall planning sessions both have been started. Membership in the organization is on the rise and participation in the annual Leadership conference, as well as all the regional conferences has greatly increased. All these things are possible because of the hard work and accomplishments of the TECA officer team, the TECA advisors, and most importantly you the TECA members.

This year will be my last to serve TECA as an officer. I will be graduating this spring to come a technology education teacher. However, this organization will always be a big part of my life and I plan to stay involved throughout my professional career. Thank you once again for letting me serve you the past few years.

Reflections from the TECA Officers (cont'd)

Reporter: Jen Schmidt

This year has been filled with hard work and sometimes frustrating times, but I would not have changed it for the world. I am very proud of the people I worked with and together, we accomplished a lot. The College Comment was labeled my “other significant other” by most of my family and friends. It was the experience of a lifetime and am proud to pass the responsibility onto Tiffanie Payne, I would also like to take this time to thank those that gave me the ability to believe in myself as a developing professional, Dr. Joe Busby who pushed and pulled the other officers and myself through crowds of people to network and shake hands with very distinguished individuals. Also, Dr. Wright who supported the officer team in all of our endeavors. The other outgoing officers, I cannot wait to see you at future conferences and possibly work with you again. Finally, all of the advisors of TECA chapters across the nation, they are the fabric of this organization and without them we would be lost. It has been a great year and I look forward to seeing what the new officer team has to offer the Technology Education Collegiate Association.

TECA Goals for 2006-2007

By: Rachael Lese

Like every TECA president in the past, I have many plans and goals that I would like to see happen next year. As a realist, I know not everyone will be fulfilled, but I hope to set a pace for future presidents to come! Following in Shanna’s footsteps will be hard because of the amazing job that she had done last year, but I hope to continue what she had started and add a couple goals of my own.

I have been attending conferences and competitions since I was a high school student in TSA. One trend that I have seemed to notice among the schools is the theories of “competitions”. Many schools attend competitions with the mind set that they are “competing” against other schools when really, I believe, it is an opportunity for schools to observe each others progress in their studies. One goal I wish to see for next year is to bring schools closer together as friends. Although we all go to different colleges, we are all the same students; taking the same courses, experiencing the same difficulties, and anticipating great jobs when they graduate.

Another goal I would like to start in progress is communication among you and me. I am concerned about your ideas; I want to know what you like and dislike about TECA, I want to know what your hopes are for the future of TECA. Something to keep in mind is that we are an organization. Everything we do is because of you! As an officer team, we communicate with you through the College Comment. Now it’s time to hear from you!

Like I said before, everything TECA does is for you! We are not only an organization, we are a team! So lets get this team rolling into a great year!

2006 TECA Eastern Regional Conference Competitive Events Results Virginia Beach, VA Feb. 16-18, 2006



McGraw-Hill Higher Education “Live” Communication Contest

Coordinator: Jim DeLaura

1st: NC A&T

2nd: California University of Pennsylvania

3rd: Central Connecticut State University

SME / TECA “Live” Manufacturing Contest

Coordinator: Jim LaPorte

1st: California University of PA

2nd: SUNY Oswego

3rd: The College of New Jersey

TECA Technology Challenge Sponsored by Goodheart-Willcox, Publishers

Coordinator: Jim Haynie

1st: Central Connecticut

2nd: Georgia Southern

3rd: California University of PA

PITSCO Problem Solving Contest

Coordinator: Creighton Alexander

1st: SUNY Oswego

2nd: Georgia Southern

3rd: College of New Jersey



Kelvin Technologies / TECA Transportation Contest

Coordinator: Bill Paige

1st: SUNY Oswego

2nd: California University of PA

3rd: Millersville

TECA-ERC Automated Systems Contest

Coordinator: John Hutchinson

1st: Central Connecticut State University

2nd: California University of PA

3rd: Millersville University

2006 TECA Eastern Regional Conference Competitive Events Results (cont'd)

DEPCO Teaching Lesson Contest

Coordinator: Phil Reed

1st: Millersville University

2nd: California University of PA

3rd: Fitchburg State

4th: SUNY Oswego

TECA-ERC Instructional Modules Contest

Coordinator: Jerianne Taylor

1st: Millersville University

2nd: California University of PA

3rd: Central Connecticut State University



TECA-ERC Poster Session Contest

Coordinator: John Karsnitz

1st: Millersville University

2nd: The College of New Jersey

3rd: Tie between Georgia Southern University &
California University of PA

TECA-ERC Elementary Technology Contest

Coordinator: Chuck Linnell

1st: SUNY Oswego

2nd: California University of PA

3rd: Georgia Southern University



2006 TECA National Conference Competitive Events Results Baltimore, MD March 23-25, 2006



Technology Challenge Sponsored by Good Heart-Wilcox Publishers

- 1st: Ball State University
- 2nd: Central Connecticut State University
- 3rd: Appalachian State University
- 4th: Central Missouri State University

SME/TECA "Live" Manufacturing Contest

- 1st: California University of Pennsylvania
- 2nd: Indiana State University
- 3rd: Pittsburg State University

McGraw-Hill Higher Education "Live" Communication Contest

- 1st: SUNY Oswego
- 2nd: Brigham Young University
- 3rd: Pittsburg State University
- 4th: College of New Jersey

Kelvin Technologies/TECA Transportation Contest

- 1st: Ball State University
- 2nd: Pittsburg State University
- 3rd: Brigham Young University
- 4th: Ball State University

DEPCO Teaching Lesson Contest

- 1st: Fort Hayes State University
- 2nd: California University of Pennsylvania
- 3rd: Utah State University
- 4th: Indiana State University



PITSCO Problem Solving Contest

- 1st: SUNY Oswego
- 2nd: Fort Hayes State University
- 3rd: California University of Pennsylvania
- 4th: Ball State University

2005-2006 National TECA Award Winners

TECA Award of Distinction: For dedication to academic achievement and involvement of significant merit in ITEA/TECA was presented to **Jennifer Schmidt, University of Wisconsin - Stout.**

TECA Outstanding Chapter Service Award: For dedication to academic achievement and Professional Development in the local TECA chapter was presented to **Rachael Lese, California University of Pennsylvania.**

Outstanding Chapter Award: For the display of exemplary activity in chapter service, professional activities, and promotion of the profession of Technology Teacher Education was presented to **TEAC California University of PA.**

TECA Distinguished Advisor Award: 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 was presented to **Dr. Kara S. Harris, Purdue University.**

TECA/ITEA Membership Award: For achieving the greatest relative gain in membership was presented to **Purdue University.**

Congratulations to all of the award winners. Remember to nominate your classmates and students for these next year!

Introducing the 2006-2007 International Officer Team



Left to Right: Dr. Peter Wright, Advisor; Rachael Lese, President; Tiffanie Payne, Reporter; Matt Brinkman, President Elect; Erica Frazier, Secretary; Scott Stahl, Vice President

Advisor: Dr. Peter Wright - California University of Pennsylvania

President: Rachael Lese - California University of Pennsylvania

President Elect: Matt Brinkman - California University of Pennsylvania

Vice President: Scott Stahl - Millersville University

Secretary: Erica Frazier - Ball State University

Reporter: Tiffanie Payne - Utah State University



Attention all TECA Alumni Members:

***Alumni* 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

California University of PA
California, PA 15419

Phone: (724) 938-8480

E-mail: wright_p@cup.edu

Somebody Should Have Told Me.... Reflections of a Student Teacher

By Stephanie Berger

As I finish my semester-long student teaching placement, I think of how this has changed me. Looking back, there are many things I was never told. So, I'm choosing to share those with you.

Somebody should have told me...I'd age 10 years in 4 months. My college life has ended, and I'm an adult! I'm in bed at 9:30. I'm up at 5:30. I'm cautious of what I wear in public (no more jogging pants or beer sweatshirts.) I am responsible for actions of my students. My entire vocabulary has changed.

Somebody should have told me...I would have no social life. This, from the girl who gave Wisconsin a reputation at the Midwest TECA regional as the party animal. Yes, my life has gone from going out 2-4 nights a week to MAYBE once a month. Running into parents' of my students is a little uncomfortable, so even that's a stretch.

Somebody should have told me...keeping a straight face is VITAL in many situations. Having an 8th-grade student turn into a dinosaur, the "cat" under his desk giving himself a "bath," the same jokes we told, the internet video of a cat with a machine gun, and the occasional loud release of gas from freshmen are all tough situations to not laugh. But laughing encourages the disruptive behavior, and only makes the situation worse. Trust me!

Somebody should have told me...to wear jeans on Friday. All through college, we were told to not wear jeans to school. Even on Fridays. But I feel I'm a much better teacher when I wear jeans, mostly because I'm comfortable. Just as long as I no longer shop at the same stores as my students (yes, I had to give up *Maurices* and *Vanity*) because that would be so embarrassing for the kids!

Somebody should have told me...I would turn into my mother! There's not much I hate more than a tattletale, even with my high-schoolers. So when I'm approached by the whiner saying *he hit me*, I turn around and ask if they deserved it. Most of the time that's enough to get the kid to stop being a pest. One of my favorite classroom rules for projects is that the students are not allowed to do "anything that would embarrass my mom." They don't know that there's not much that would embarrass her, but it keeps the projects clean!

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Alumni

Somebody should have told me...Kindergarden rules are vital, even for high school students. Seriously, if I had a dime..."Keep your hands and feet to yourself." "Don't make me sing the clean-up song!" "If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all." Maybe this would be a good list to post in my class...

Somebody should have told me..."Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes" is a great way to wake up! The threat is usually enough to get the kids to pay attention in class. In fact, I think we've only actually done it once. And singing the clean-up song is the icing in the cake. Again, usually the threat is enough.

Somebody should have told me...to stay out of the teacher's lounge! I've never sat in there for more than 5 minutes at a time, mostly because I can't stand the bickering and backstabbing that goes on. I have lunch in "The Men's Lounge" with 14 guys. The still grumble about everything, but at least it's funny and not so catty.

Somebody should have told me...This would be the best experience of my life! With all the mistakes I've made, the headaches, lost sleep, discussions with parents and nasty school lunches, this semester has reaffirmed my destiny as a teacher. I wouldn't trade my kids for anything, not even the dinosaur or the cat!