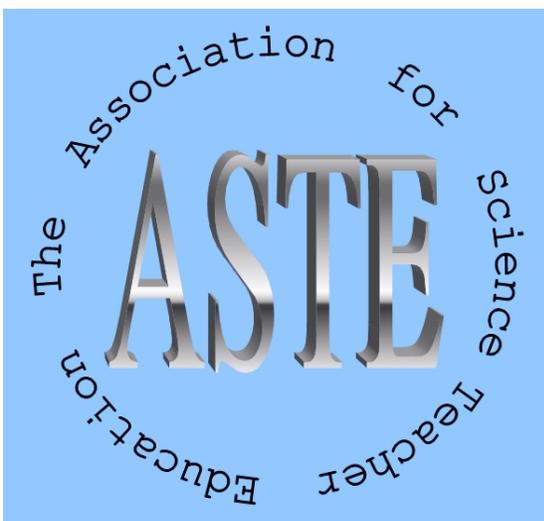


ASTE NEWSLETTER

President's Newsletter Message

Warren J, DiBiase, ASTE President



Bits and Pieces ...

I would like to take this opportunity to invite each of you to renew your ASTE membership for 2009. Your membership includes a year's subscription to the *Journal of Science Teacher Education*, the ASTE newsletter, access to member's only resources on our website and a discounted registration rate at the 2009 International conference. In addition, you may choose to subscribe to the *Science Education* journal and the *Journal of Elementary Science Education* at reduced ASTE member subscription rates.

Voting for positions on the 2009 leadership team is open until November 15, 2008. We currently have candidates running for the following positions: president-elect, Board of Directors-member at large, and elections committee. Candidate's position statements as well as access to the electronic ballot can be found at our website, <http://theaste.org/>.

SUMMER 2008

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Promoting leadership and support for those involved in the professional development of science teachers

The 2009 ASTE conference will be held at the Hartford Marriott Downtown on Wednesday January 7th through Saturday January 10th. This is the newest luxury hotel in Hartford and offers us a unique setting for our annual conference.

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President's Newsletter Message Continued from Page 1

The 409 room Hartford Marriott Downtown hotel rises 22 stories above the Connecticut River in downtown Hartford and is the only hotel located on the riverfront. The hotel is located at I-91 and I-84 and is near Bradley International Airport. The conference coordination team has arranged for a shuttle service from the airport to the hotel and back for \$25 round trip. Reservations for this service must be made by December 19. Specific details as well as the link to book your reservations can be located on the ASTE website.

The Hartford Marriott Downtown offers 11 breakout rooms with 13,500 sq ft of meeting space. This is comparable to the number of breakout rooms we have had available at our recent conferences. The Hartford Marriott Downtown is interconnected to the Connecticut Convention Center. Both plenary sessions as well as the Saturday business luncheon will be held in the Convention Center.

John Settlege and his co-chairs Heather Harkins and Rob Ceglie are working hard to provide a quality and professionally rewarding experience for us. I invite all of you to join us in Hartford.

Over the past several months, the ASTE has given its support to a number of letters addressed to legislators on matters aligned with our mission and goals. The presidential team, together with the Board of Directors recognizes the importance of becoming involved politically. Currently, a member of the presidential team attends and represents the ASTE at the annual meeting of organizations such as the Triangle Coalition and the Council of Scientific Society Presidents (CSSP). Both of these organizations are committed to STEM initiatives as well as influencing policy. Adding our names to said letters however, is only a first step.

The presidential team and Board of Directors agree that the ASTE needs to become more involved in the political arena. One of our goals is to become recognized by the policy makers as the organization they turn to on matters dealing with science teacher education. As such, we will be in the position to effect change. The ASTE must become more visible to achieve this goal!

In an effort to help us achieve this goal, two ASTE members, Joe Shane and Regina Toolin stepped up to the plate and formed the Committee on

Policy and Government Relations. The general goals of this committee are to inform policymakers at all level of government and other stakeholders (e.g. the business community) about principles and practices for educating highly qualified science teachers and to become more involved with policymaking and legislative processes as they relate to the recruitment, education and licensure, and ongoing professional development of science teachers. The Committee is also dedicated to educating ASTE members about these goals and to develop collaborations with other science education organizations (i.e. NSTA and NARST) in order to increase ASTE's influence with regard to educational policy and legislation.

The Committee on Policy and Government Relations will be sponsoring a workshop at the ASTE Conference in Hartford. The Committee Co-chairs, Joe Shane and Regina Toolin, along with the Assistant Executive Director of Legislative and Public Affairs at NSTA, Jodi Peterson, will provide more detail about the aforementioned information and solicit input as to ASTE's specific advocacy goals for the long term and for the upcoming year. I encourage all interested members to attend this very important workshop.



ASTE: 2009 International Conference

What Science Educators Make

January 8-10, 2009

[Marriott Hartford Downtown](#)

200 Columbus Blvd Hartford, Connecticut 06103-2807 Phone: 1-860-249-8000 Toll-free: 1-866-373-9806

Mark your calendars now!

Conference Co-Chairs

John Settlage, University of Connecticut,
john.settlage@uconn.edu

Heather Harkins, University of Connecticut,
heather.harkins@uconn.edu

Rob Ceglie, University of Connecticut,
rceglie@hotmail.com

To make a reservation with the ASTE room rate of \$135/night, go directly to:

<http://marriott.com/bdldt?groupCode=astasta&pp=resvlink> Reservations can also be arranged by calling the Marriott directly at 860-249-8000. The ASTE group rate code is **astasta**.

ASTE Membership and Conference Registration notice

The Association for Science Teacher Education invites you to renew your membership for 2009. Your membership includes a year's subscription to the *Journal of Science Teacher Education*, the ASTE newsletter, access to member's only resources on our website and a discounted registration rate at the 2009 International Conference in Hartford CT, January 8-10. In addition, you may choose to subscribe to the *Science Education* journal and the *Journal of Elementary Science Education* at reduced ASTE member subscription rates. Please be aware that ASTE membership operates on a calendar year. You will receive membership benefits for all of 2009 when you join or renew anytime between now and October, 2009. If you have any questions about membership or conference registration, please contact our Executive Secretary, Eugene Wagner.

Eugene P. Wagner, Ph.D.
ASTE Executive Secretary
113 Radcliff Dr.
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
phone: 412-624-2861
executivesecretary@theaste.org

ASTE: Regional News

North Central Region

The North Central Region of ASTE held its Regional Conference Oct. 9-11 at Winona State University, Winona, MN. The conference program of paper presentations and "practical teaching ideas" was highlighted by an interactive session with Dr. Ron Bonnstetter on how neurological research might shape the reconfiguration of our schools and what we in teacher preparation might do in our methods courses to reflect this knowledge. Dr. Bruno Borsari gave a delightful presentation on his efforts as a scientist with an educator's heart in incorporating sustainability topics and issues into all of his science courses, in particular a science course specifically for elementary education majors. This was followed by a Riverboat Cruise on a boat owned by Winona State University and used for not only college courses, but also with local area school children and in summer professional development work with teachers. We also had time on Saturday morning for extended discussion in two areas: the enduring ideas in science education and the meaning of terms we all use in our practice, such as "what do we mean when we say inquiry?". Our business meeting introduced the hosting of the January 2011 ASTE meeting in Minneapolis and started the formation of working committees. Next October's NC-ASTE meeting will be at the University of Dubuque, Dubuque, IA.

Regions of ASTE

[Far West Region](#)

[Mid-Atlantic Region](#)

[North-Central Region](#)

[North-East Region](#)

[North-West Region](#)

[Southeastern Region](#)

[South-West Region](#)

Southeast Region

The Southeastern Region held its Regional Conference October 10-11 in Columbia, South Carolina at the University of South Carolina, Columbia. Eileen Carlton Parsons from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill gave the Keynote address titled "Science Education for Social Justice: The Time is NOW". Dr. Tom Koballa presented an invited session on "Writing for Publication". Michael Svec and Stephen Thompson facilitated a graduate student forum titled "The Initial Job Search", while Mary Earick and Christine Lotter facilitated a junior faculty forum focused on "Transitioning into the Professorate". In addition to these presentations, the Eddie Griffin Memorial Award for Outstanding Position Paper (Graduate Student) was awarded to Charlease Kelly-Jackson, University of South Carolina. Finally, the following are some additional details of the wonderful conference:

- Registrants: 51
- Faculty - 31
- Grad students - 19
- District administrators - 1
- Presentations: 36
- 4 poster presentations
- 3 technology sessions
- 3 workshops/activity sessions
- 3 graduate student research forums
- 1 faculty and graduate student discussion
- 19 contributed paper presentations

International Region

The newly formed ASTE International Region invites all interested individuals (both international members and those involved in international collaborations) to join the international region. If you are interested in being part of the region and planning for future activities please send your name to the current president of the region, Michael Bowen (gmbowen@yahoo.com) or to Deborah Tippins (dtippins@uga.edu). There will be a meeting of the international region at the annual conference in Hartford and all interested individuals are invited to attend.

Come Join Us for ***Cosmic Science!*** At the
**Faculty Institute for
 NASA Earth and Space Science Education (FINESSE)**

at ASTE January 6-7, 2009, Hartford, Connecticut



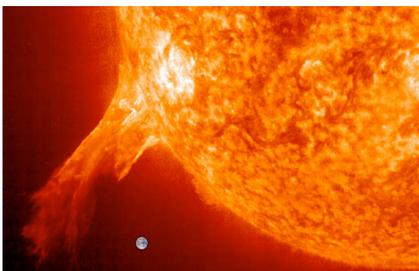
***Discover, develop, and share inquiry-based tools
 about the Earth, our Solar System, and our Universe
 to engage future teachers in science***

***NASA scientists share current discoveries about Mars, the
 Moon, our Galaxy, and more***



In this free two-day participant-driven workshop for pre-service science education faculty, NASA geoscientists, space scientists, and educators (including ASTE members Rick Pomeroy and Greg Schultz) will share Earth and space science activities, data, and resources related to key science topics from the national science standards. Participants will receive a \$300 stipend, lunches, and more.

- Explore standards-based concepts using authentic inquiry activities and share your thoughts on additional adaptations for various classroom grade levels and student needs
- Discuss current science research with NASA scientists
- Identify ways to address Earth and space science misconceptions
- Share your own practices, challenges, reflections, and implementation plans
- Explore collaboration plans with colleagues



Registration available online at
www.lpi.usra.edu/education/facultyInstitutes

For more information, contact:

Christine Shupla
 Lunar and Planetary Institute
 3600 Bay Area Boulevard
 Houston, TX 77058
 281-486-2135
 shupla@lpi.usra.edu

Discover the Universe with
 NASA during 2009, the
 International Year of
 Astronomy

The Hofstra University Library, Hofstra College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the Hofstra Cultural Center present a conference:

Darwin's Reach: A Celebration of Darwin's Legacy Across Academic Disciplines

Thursday, Friday and Saturday, March 12, 13 and 14, 2009

Darwin's Reach examines the impact of Darwin and Darwinian evolution on science and society in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Robert Darwin and the sesquicentennial of the publication of Darwin's *On the Origin of Species* (1859). The central theme of this academic conference is an exploration of how Darwin's ideas have revolutionized our understanding of both the living world and human nature. Papers exploring diverse topics on Darwin's legacy are invited from a wide variety of disciplines, including the natural and social sciences, humanities and law.

Keynote speakers include:

- Frans de Waal, Ph.D., Charles Howard Candler Professor of Primate Behavior at Emory University; author of *Chimpanzee Politics* and *Our Inner Ape*; preeminent researcher on primate social behavior
- Niles Eldredge, Ph.D., Curator of Paleontology at the American Museum of Natural History; curator of the Darwin exhibition; author of *Charles Darwin - Discovering the Tree of Life* and numerous other books on the subject of evolution
- Judge John E. Jones III, U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, who ruled against the Dover (Pennsylvania) area school board's attempt to introduce teaching on "intelligent design" into school science classes
- Jay Labov, Ph.D., senior advisor for education and communications at the National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C.
- William F. McComas, Ph.D., Parks Family Professor of Science Education, University of Arkansas; 2007 recipient of the Evolution Education Award sponsored by the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) and the Biological Sciences Curriculum Study (BSCS)

Darwin's Reach for the Teach

Reach for the Teach is a one-day event for teachers being held in concert with the academic conference *Darwin's Reach - A Celebration of Darwin's Legacy Across Academic Disciplines* on Thursday, March 12, 2009. Registrants for this day devoted to examining evolution's place in education will have the option of attending a variety of events, including keynote lectures, workshops, and academic conference sessions:

Keynote Speakers

- Judge John E. Jones III
- Jay Labov, Ph.D.
- William F. McComas, Ph.D.

Workshops

- Darwin's Ingenious Idea: Explaining Adaptation and Diversity in the Natural World
- Genetics and Evolution: The Molecular Evidence for Descent
- Microevolution: Natural Selection All Around Us
- Macroevolution: The Fossils Say YES!
- Recent Challenges to the Teaching of Evolution: Creationism Reborn

Academic Conference Sessions

- Scholars representing a wide range of academic disciplines will be presenting their research on a variety of topics, including the pedagogy of evolution, the impact of creationism on the teaching of evolution, and studying abroad with Mr. Charles Darwin.

Reach for the Teach will be an exciting opportunity for teachers of all subjects and levels to expand their appreciation of the significance of and evidence for Darwin's ideas and to better understand and respond to the unique challenges faced by anyone teaching evolution in their classroom today.

Position Announcement

College of Education and Human Sciences Assistant/Associate Professor, Science Education

The Department of Teaching, Learning, and Teacher Education in the College of Education and Human Sciences at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) invites applications for a tenure-track appointment in science education beginning in August 2009. Because UNL is both a land grant and a Research I institution, the Department has a strong commitment to research, teaching, and service, actively promoting interdisciplinary scholarship to enhance the lives of children, families, schools and communities and to strengthening the relationships among them.

The Department of Teaching, Learning, and Teacher Education has launched a comprehensive initiative for excellence in K-12 science education and invites applicants for a new assistant/associate professor position. We see this position as a complement to our existing science education faculty in building a strong and visible science education program. The position will provide leadership in the science education program area at initial certification, graduate and advanced graduate levels. This position responds to needs to promote all children's science learning, to train teachers to work effectively with diverse students, to collaborate with content specialists, to seek and receive external funding, and to draw national interest to science education in Nebraska.

An earned doctorate in Science Education K-12 or related field, 2 years teaching experience in grades K-12, a demonstrated record of scholarly activity, evidence of ability to teach and advise at the college level, and expertise in the teaching and learning of science content and pedagogy will be required. Preference will be given to applicants with one or more of the following: college teaching experience in science education; a record of participation in funded projects (particularly success in securing external funding); experiences working with students from diverse cultures and backgrounds; experiences in interdisciplinary program/course development; and expertise in the teaching of science content and pedagogy to diverse student populations.

Screening of applications begins November 10, 2008. To be considered for this position, go to <http://employment.unl.edu> and enter requisition 080838. Complete the Faculty/Academic Administrative form and attach a letter of application, vitae, and an example of recent scholarship. Submit three letters of reference and graduate transcripts by mail to: Dr. Kathy Wilson, Chair, Science Education Search Committee, Teaching, Learning, and Teacher Education, 118 Henslik Hall, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE 68588-0355.

The University of Nebraska has an active National Science Foundation ADVANCE gender equity program and is committed to a pluralistic campus community through affirmative action, equal opportunity, work-life balance, and dual careers.

ASTE Newsletter

Published four times a year by the Association for Science Teacher Education. All members are invited to submit items.

Issue	Items due by
Summer	Aug. 15
Fall	Oct. 15
Winter	Feb. 15
Spring	May 15

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Newsletter Communications

A Note from the Membership Committee:

Are you interested in having a mentor for the annual conference? The ASTE membership committee will match interested individuals with mentors at the 2009 conference in Hartford. If you would like a mentor, please check the appropriate box on the conference registration form. Mentor and mentee pairs will be notified prior to the conference and will meet each other initially during a "meet the mentor" session.

It's time to vote!

The ASTE 2009 election of officers is now open. To learn about each candidate and to cast your ballot, please go to <http://theaste.org/elections>. The Elections Committee is happy to announce that the voting process is completely electronic this year and requires your ASTE PIN. If necessary, you may obtain your PIN through the ASTE website at <http://theaste.org/memberresources/passcodere minder.htm>. If you have any technical problems or wish to receive a paper ballot, please contact Eugene Wagner at ExecutiveSecretary@TheASTE.org or 412-624-2861.

Cast your ballot soon because the voting ends November 15th.