I know that you all have received information regarding the ASTE election and the vote on the revised ASTE By-Laws. Make sure that you go the TheASTE.org and vote! It is through this process that your voice can be heard as we transition to a new leadership team during the 2010 ASTE International Meeting.

It doesn’t seem possible that a year has almost gone by and we are gearing up for Sacramento. Rick Pomery and Catherine Martin-Dunlop have done an outstanding job in preparing for what is going to be a wonderful conference. I just want to point out some of the highlights for the upcoming meeting.

The location of the meeting will be at the Sheraton Grand Sacramento Hotel. The hotel is situated in the heart of downtown Sacramento, where you will find ample shopping and wonderful restaurants all within walking distance of the hotel. In addition, there are historical museums nearby and the State Capitol Complex just a block from the hotel (you never know who you might see come out of the State Capitol!).

The conference itself will follow a similar format to past conferences with a Thursday Happy Hour/Poster Session, Friday Lunch Buffet & Committee Meetings, and a Saturday Business Luncheon. As in the past, there will be a Science Teacher Fun Run that will be held Thursday morning at 6:45 a.m.

And, for those of you attending your first ASTE meeting, there is a Mentor Program. On Thursday morning, mentors and mentees will meet, and mentors will be able to answer questions and assist mentees in navigating the conference and the organization. If you are interested in participating in the mentor program (either as a mentor or mentee), please check the appropriate box on the registration form and/or contact Dr. Deborah Tippins at dtippins@uga.edu.
There are several important sessions that you will want to make sure that you consider attending. On Friday morning there will be a session to meet the ASTE Board (Friday, 9:45 a.m.). If you ever wondered who was on the ASTE Board and have questions for Board members, this is your chance. As well, at each conference we have a Town Hall Meeting (Friday, 1:30 p.m.). This is a more formal session to bring specific issues to the attention of the leadership of ASTE. On Friday at 4:30 p.m., all of the ASTE Regions will be meeting. Please consider attending these meetings to learn more about our ASTE Regions. Also, don’t forget the Women In Science Education (WISE) Friday Night Dinner. Each year WISE hosts a “Greet, Meet, Eat, Share” reception. I can tell you from personal experience, this is a wonderful event and I would encourage you to attend. This year’s WISE reception will be on Friday evening January 15, 2010, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Lucca Restaurant at 1615 J Street.

We are also fortunate to have two wonderful keynote speakers, Sheila Tobias and Dr. Richard Alley. Many of us already know Sheila Tobias’ work through her numerous books including, They’re not Dumb, They’re Different. She provides a unique point of view as an outsider to science and mathematics education. Her talk in January will focus on her most recent work, Science Teaching as a Profession: Why it Isn’t How it Could Be, which tracks the effect of high-stakes testing, values added management, threats to teacher tenure, and an erosion of teachers’ autonomy and control. One exciting aspect of Sheila’s talk is that she is providing her book free of charge. She is urging everyone to go to the following web site and download her latest work (scroll to the bottom of the page): http://www.rescorp.org/

Dr. Richard Alley, from The Pennsylvania State University, is highly recognized as a leader in his scientific investigations of the earth’s cryosphere and global climate change. He has provided expert testimony to the U.S. government on climate change and authored the book The two-mile time machine: ice cores, abrupt climate change, and our future. Dr. Alley will discuss the essential need for well-trained and educated scientists to formulate new ideas and inventions to address climate change, the barriers we face in getting there, as well as possible ways to move forward.

One final suggestion for our members to checkout is a session that provides an opportunity to review and provide feedback on the current efforts of NSTA to redesign the NSTA Standards for Science Teacher Preparation. During this session, ASTE members will have the opportunity to work in small groups and review each of the redesigned standards and provide feedback directly to the NSTA Committee charged with the redesign. It is one of several opportunities that ASTE members will have to give input and help shape NSTA Standards for Science Teacher Preparation.

So you can see that this is going to be a very engaging and exciting conference. To learn more about the conference including details regarding sessions, hotel accommodations, and to register for the conference, go to: http://theaste.org/meetings/2010conference/index.htm and checkout what is in store for January 2010!

Conference Update

The plans for the fall conference on January 14-16 are coming together nicely. We have scheduled 184 Paper Presentations, 50 Posters, 31 Experiential Sessions, 10 Themed Paper Sets and a new feature this year, 10 Water Cooler Conversations. The Water Cooler Conversation sessions are designed to encourage committees and forums to provide sessions of interest to their members, which did not require a proposal review. The action-packed program begins with pre-Conference workshops and Institutes on Tuesday and Wednesday and continues straight through to Saturday afternoon. There will be a poster reception on Thursday night and the traditional WISE dinner on Friday. For those looking to see the scenery in downtown Sacramento, there will be a Fun Run Walk Thursday morning beginning at 7:00 a.m.. Keynote speakers this year are Dr. Richard Alley, noted climate researcher and author of The Two-Mile Time Machine: Ice Cores, Abrupt Climate Change and Our Future and Sheila Tobias, author of Science Teaching as a Profession. There are a wide variety of dining and entertainment options within walking distance of the hotel. Additionally the conference committee can promise no snow and comfortable but cool weather in January. For those traveling from the East Coast, take advantage of the Monday holiday by staying over Saturday night, taking a side trip to San Francisco, the Napa Valley Wine Region or beautiful Lake Tahoe.

Conference Update Provided by Rick Pomeroy
Conference Mentoring Program

The ASTE membership committee sponsors a mentoring program. If you would like to have a mentor for the upcoming conference in Sacramento, please be sure to check the box on the conference registration form to request a mentor. Alternatively, please email any of the following individuals directly to let them know that you would like a mentor: Deborah Tippins (dtippins@uga.edu), Gerri Cole (gcole@uga.edu) or Tina Pagan (tpagan@uga.edu). You will be matched with a mentor prior to the conference and will meet your mentor in person at a Meet Your Mentor session on the first day of the conference.

Call for Mentors

Please volunteer to serve as a mentor for the upcoming ASTE conference in Sacramento! Each mentor will be matched with a mentee prior to the conference. During the conference, you will meet with your mentee, familiarize him/her with the conference, attend a Meet Your Mentor Session, perhaps arrange a meal together, and participate in any other activities that you plan with your mentee. If you are willing to serve as a mentor please send your name and email to: Deborah Tippins (dtippins@uga.edu), gerricole (gcole@uga.edu), or Tina Pagan (tpagan@uga.edu).

ASTE Graduate Students

Are you an ASTE graduate student? If so, join us on our Ning social network site.

Visit http://aste-gs.ning.com to become a member and post a discussion or announcement. Sign up by clicking, “My Page” and follow the instructions.

The ASTE-GSF Ning site is an online, social network site for ASTE’s graduate students. It is a way for students to share their ongoing science education research and find out more about upcoming ASTE opportunities, such as regional and international conferences. The Ning site allows members to customize profile pages, create discussion forums, create groups, and post announcements (e.g., conference event or job posting).

We look forward to seeing you on ASTE-GSF Ning.
Tina Pagan, ASTE-GSF Chair

5th Annual Science Teacher Shuffle

Help us celebrate the 5th Anniversary of the Science Teacher Shuffle.

Join your colleagues to start the conference off on the “right foot!”

The STS is a 3 mile fun run/2 mile walk. Social attendees will congregate in the lobby of the conference hotel on Thursday at 6:45 a.m. and head out for a walk or run that starts promptly at 7 a.m.! Whether you’re into speeding along or just strolling, you can be assured of having great company. Preregistration is requested.

Fun Run Application

We can promise a scenic walk, camaraderie, and no ice this year!!

2009 SASTE Regional Conference

The 2009 Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association for Science Teacher Education was held at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, GA, on October 9 and 10. Over 65 presentations were made to the 100+ conference attendees, including several around the conference theme of science teacher recruitment and retention. Our keynote address by noted author Sheila Tobias entitled, “Teacher Recruitment, Teacher Retention…Whose Problem is it to Solve?” was well-received and stimulated many conversations afterwards about ASTE’s role in addressing this critical issue. The outstanding paper awards were given to Ms. Rachel Wilson (graduate student, Univ. of GA) and Dr. Michael Mueller (Asst. Professor, Univ. of GA). Dr. Steve Oliver (Professor, Univ. of GA) received the John Shrum Award for Excellence in the Education of Science Teachers, while Dr. Laurence I. Peterson, Dean of the College of Science and Mathematics at Kennesaw State University, received the Rod Nave Award for Outstanding Friend to Science Teacher Education. Dr. Lisa Martin-Hansen, associate professor at Georgia State University, was elected as SASTE 2010 President, and Dr. Michael Dias, associate professor at Kennesaw State University, was elected as the Southeast Regional ASTE representative for 2010-2013.
Provide Feedback for Science Teacher Preparation Standards

You are invited to attend a session on updating the 2003 NSTA Standards for Science Teacher Preparation. The NSTA Preservice Subcommittee has developed a first DRAFT revision of the Standards for Science Teacher Preparation. The revised standards are slated for approval by fall of 2011. The DRAFT will be shared with the community at the Regional NSTA meetings this fall, the ASTE meeting in Sacramento and the NSTA National meeting this spring.

NSTA Regional:
• Minneapolis Thursday, October 29, 3:30–4:30 p.m., Minneapolis Convention Center, 201 A/B
• Fort Lauderdale Thursday, November 12, 12:30–1:30 p.m., Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty Six, Crystal Ballroom Salon IV
• Phoenix Friday, December 4, 11:00 AM–12:00 PM, Phoenix Convention Center, 228B
• ASTE, Friday, January 15, time TBA
• NSTA National, Details TBA

We look forward to your input.

Call for NSTA/NCATE Reviewers

The National Science Teachers Association is soliciting experienced science teacher educators to serve as NSTA-appointed reviewers to recognize science teacher preparation programs. A Reviewer Training Workshop will be conducted at the ASTE Annual Conference in Sacramento, California on January 16-17, 2010. Saturday, January 16, the training will be from 2:00-6:00 p.m. and on Sunday the training will be from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Your application is welcome. Individuals who attend the workshop agree to review programs twice a year for three years.

Teams of two or three reviewers conduct reviews electronically twice a year. Your responsibility as a reviewer would be to evaluate science teacher preparation programs seeking NCATE recognition, using the NSTA Standards for Science Teacher Preparation.

The term of service is three years, renewable, based on performance and need, and is an unpaid service commitment. The time required averages one day (eight hours), twice a year.

Reviewers should have at least two years of experience in preservice science teacher preparation, a working knowledge of teacher preparation and performance assessment at the college or university level, and be from an NSTA-recognized program.

This is an excellent opportunity to see what other programs are doing, as well as to engage in current reform efforts.

If you are interested, please complete an application. The application is available in two places: ASTE website under “Announcements” or http://www.nsta.org/preservice/accreditation-ncate. If you have questions, contact NSTA Accreditation Coordinator, Erica Brownstein, ebrownst@capital.edu. Completed applications should be directed to the same address.

We are limited to 20 reviewers per workshop, so please contact us as soon as you determine you would like to participate.

Erica M. Brownstein Ph.D
NSTA Accreditation Coordinator
ebrownst@capital.edu
ASTE 2010 International Conference Reminder

Make your plans Now!

Downtown Sacramento, state capital, includes several outstanding theater venues, world famous museums, and the beautiful Capital Park and garden. For those planning to come early or stay late, there are several world famous wine regions within an hours drive. For those wanting a more scenic experience, beautiful Lake Tahoe with skiing, winter resorts and the Nevada casinos is an easy drive to the east and San Francisco is an hour to the west. Watch the ASTE website for more information about the conference and recommendations about travel plans. Sacramento is served by all of major airlines and Amtrak so now is the time to catch those great travel deals. The conference planning committee and the Far-West Region look forward to welcoming you to Sacramento in January.

Rick Pomeroy
ASTE 2010 Conference Chair
jrpomeroy@ucdavis.edu

Catherine Martin-Dunlop
ASTE 2010 Conference Program Chair
cmartin7@csulb.edu

Conference Keynote Speakers

Sheila Tobias

Richard Alley
Columbia University’s Summer Research Program for Science Teachers

Columbia University’s Summer Research Program for Science Teachers premise, like that of other teacher research programs, is that experience in the practice of science improves the quality and authenticity of science teaching, and thereby increases student science interest and achievement. Columbia’s teacher professional development program differs from most STEM summer programs in the time participants are engaged (16 weeks over two consecutive summers) and in the intensity of professional development (one day each week during each of the two summers).

The Summer Research Program, founded in 1990, has measured the impact of New York City public high school science teacher participation in the program on their students’ academic performance in science. In the year prior to program entry, students of participating and non-participating teachers passed a New York State Regents science examination at the same rate. In years three and four, following entry into the two-year program, participating teachers’ students passed Regents science exams at a 10.1 percentage point higher rate (p=0.049) than non-participating teachers’ students. Other program benefits include decreased teacher attrition from classroom teaching and school cost savings of $1.14 for each dollar invested in the program.

The paper written by Samuel C. Silverstein, Jay Dubner, Jon Miller, Sherry Glied, and John Loike, Teacher's Participation in Research Programs Improves Their Students' Achievement in Science, was published in the October 16, 2009, issue of Science Magazine.

Faculty Institutes for NASA Earth and Space Science Education (FINESSE)

We are now accepting applications for the 2010 Faculty Institutes for NASA Earth and Space Science Education (FINESSE), including one that will occur as a two-day pre-conference ASTE workshop on January 12-13. This free two-day workshop is to assist university and community college faculty and graduate students in preparing future teachers in science.

NASA Earth and space scientists and educators share authentic inquiry activities, data, and resources related to key topics from the national science standards. The 2010 institutes will include a focus on NASA Earth science data and the theme of climate change. The first 20 participants receive a $300 stipend, and all participants receive lunch and develop implementation plans.

To apply or for more information, please go to http://www.lpi.usra.edu/education/facultyInstitutes/