President’s Newsletter Message
Randy L. Bell, ASTE President

Equinox and Elections

As I write this message, the temperatures here in Charlottesville, Va., have taken the first major plunge of the season. The Autumn Equinox is upon us, and soon the leaves will be painting the hills around Charlottesville in brilliant colors. For me, Autumn represents change in a very positive way—Summer is passing, and winter looms, but the spectacular colors and cool, crisp weather remind us that change is not only inevitable, but can be a good thing in itself.

Another positive manifestation of change that coincides with the season is the election of your ASTE leaders. Our organization has long recognized that changing the leadership on a regular basis provides new ideas and better representation. Thus, each of your nine board members is elected on a three-year rotation, staggered in such a way that no more than three new members are brought on board in a given year. Your president also serves a three year term, first as president-elect, then as president, and finally as past-president. The election schedule of the ASTE Board and President strikes a balance between change and continuity, with the goal of combining
fresh ideas with historical context and institutional memory.

Given the importance of the upcoming elections and the behind-the-scenes work of the individuals who make the elections happen, I think it’s worth summarizing the process. ASTE elections are implemented by your Elections Committee, a separate entity from the Board of Directors. Elections Committee members are elected for a two-year term and are charged with soliciting nominations, producing a manageable slate of candidates for Board approval, and implementing the election. The committee’s work starts during the ASTE conference, with committee members encouraging the nomination of candidates. Next, nominees submit nomination packages consisting of two items designed to highlight ASTE service: 1) a 2-page vita, and 2) a position statement to be posted on the ASTE website, should the nominee be selected for the elections slate. The 2011 elections slate appears in this edition of the Newsletter.

The Standard Operating Procedures limit the number of nominees for each elected position with the goal of avoiding candidate overload, confusion, and diluting the vote. The Elections Committee is charged with the difficult task of selecting the appropriate number of candidates from among the nomination packages, using a rubric developed with the help of the ASTE Board. This rubric was recently revised to be more inclusive of a broad range of ASTE service and leadership, and is available on the “Membership Resources” page of the ASTE website for your perusal. Individual committee members evaluate each candidate, followed by a pooling of the individual evaluations and group discussion leading to consensus for which nominees appear on the slate.

The slate is usually announced in the Fall Newsletter, and voting begins soon after. The membership has 45 days to vote, after which the Executive Director forwards the data to the Chairs of the Elections Committee. The Chairs tally the data and notify the President, Executive Director, Elections Committee Members and all candidates who were on the ballot of the election results. Finally, the Chair submits an announcement of the election results to the editor of the ASTE newsletter and ASTE Listserv, including the percentage of members who voted in the election. And thus ends the annual duties of the Elections Committee, only to start again during the next annual meeting in January.

As you can see, the Elections Committee takes on a lot of work and responsibility that lasts throughout the year. I encourage you to thank co-chairs Deb Hemler and Sheri Brown for their leadership and the rest of your Elections Committee for their hard work in organizing the 2011 Elections. While words of encouragement are welcomed, perhaps the most appropriate thanks that you can give is to take the few minutes necessary to electronically cast your vote! Given the importance of the elections to our organization, the efforts of the nominees, Elections Committee, and your Executive Director to make the process effective, efficient, and electronic—how can you not take the time to vote?
**President's Newsletter Message Continued**

Wouldn’t it be wonderful if this year we started the tradition of having a large majority of ASTE members participating in our elections? Wouldn’t it feel good to know that you’ve done your part? So take a few minutes to read the candidates’ statements and think about who would best represent ASTE. Be sure to cast your vote when Eugene announces that voting is open. And finally, get out and enjoy the wonderful changes that accompany Autumn, knowing that you’ve done your part to continue the cycle of leadership and representation in your favorite science education organization.

**NEASTE Meeting News**

2011 Northeast Region Association for Science Teacher Education (NEASTE) meeting will be held October 26-28 at Black Rock Forest in Cornwall, New York. Black Rock Forest is located 50 miles north of NYC in the Hudson Highlands. It is a field station for scientific research, education and conservation. Comprised of almost 4,000 acres and filled with lakes, streams, and upland habitat, Black Rock Forest offers spectacular views and access to rare flora and fauna that have disappeared from much of the area.

The conference will begin on Wednesday evening with a light dinner followed by a discussion session on the integration of environmental education into science teacher education and additional evening activities. Paper sessions will be given in the morning and early afternoon on Thursday. Special invited workshops will be offered during the conference. An afternoon break will follow with optional activities like hiking in the beautiful Black Rock Forest. Evening roundtable and poster sessions will occur over dessert and the evening will conclude with an optional night hike. Additional paper sessions will take place on Friday morning with the conference concluding after lunch.

Session formats will include 20-minute paper sessions (15 minute presentation followed by 5 minutes of questions and discussion), 30-minute roundtable discussions, and a poster session.

**Important Dates:**
Advance Registration Deadline: **October 1, 2011**
Proposal Submission: **October 1, 2011**
Late Registration: **After October 1, 2011**

**The NEASTE conference Web site is available at:** [http://www.environmentaleducationonline.com/neaste/](http://www.environmentaleducationonline.com/neaste/)
Please see this Web site for registration and submission information.

Additional information about Black Rock Forest is available online at: [http://www.blackrockforest.org/](http://www.blackrockforest.org/)
We hope to see you at Black Rock Forest in October!

Pamela Abder (NYU), Beth Klein (SUNY-Cortland), Mary Leou (NYU), Yael Wyner (CCNY-CUNY), 2011 NE-ASTE Region conference co-chairs

Al Bodzin
NEASTE Regional Director
SWASTE Meeting News

A Reminder to all SWASTE Members and Friends,

It’s not too late to send in your proposal and make a reservation to attend the annual meeting of the Southwest Association for Science Teacher Education (SWASTE), which will be held on the evening of Friday, October 21, and all day Saturday, October 22, at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas with a theme of “Science Teacher Education Under Attack.”

There will be presentations about Science Teacher Education (Preservice and In-service) plus Science Education (in general).

There will be two keynote speakers addressing the convention theme. Former NSTA President, Jerry Skoog, an expert on the teaching of evolution, will speak on that topic. Peggy Johnson and Hansel Burley, both Texas Tech faculty members, will speak about changes in science teacher education. For example, more than half of new Texas teachers are certified via alternative programs and the largest producers of Texas teachers are alternative, for-profit outfits. Also, within months, education programs will be ranked according to the test scores of the children taught by that program’s completers. Both addresses will be followed by reactant panels that include teachers, teacher educators and a member of the Texas State Board of Education that approved new science textbooks two years ago.

On Friday night you might be able to do open heart surgery . . . well, maybe not. But our dinner session will be at Tech’s medical simulation center, which is among the very best between the two coasts.

On Saturday night you will see applications of pheromone research (in an apple orchard) while enjoying dinner and some new science activities.

And there will be time to talk with old and new friends at appropriate establishments.

Rooms have been blocked at the Staybridge Suites (across the street from the Texas Tech campus) at a nightly rate of $85 plus tax for queen suite or $105 for a king suite plus tax. Call the Staybridge at (806) 765-8900 for reservations. Mention that you are attending the Southwest Region of the Association for Science Teacher Education meeting (SWASTE). Rooms at this rate are held only until October 7 or whenever they are sold out, whichever comes first.

If you are flying in, let us know your flight number and arrival time, so we can pick you up at the Lubbock Airport.

Make your plans soon!

Walter S. Smith
International ASTE Conference
Clearwater Beach, Florida
January 4 - 7, 2012

We are excited to have The Association for Science Teacher Education (ASTE) return to the west coast beaches of Florida! The ASTE 2012 International Conference theme, *Promoting Democratic Decision-making and Discourse through Science Teacher Education*, aims to highlight the fundamental importance that community, discourse, dissent and tolerance have for the activity of science and science teacher education. The program committee has encouraged the submission of proposals that highlight our commitment to empowering teachers and their students by exercising evidence-based reasoning and becoming engaging in the democratic process through policy, activism and scientific inquiry. In doing so, we hope to extend our international community boundaries as a professional society.

We will continue the successful tradition of the Minneapolis conference by having *syllabus sharing* as a presentation option to our robust program of papers, posters, round-table discussions, experiential sessions and themed paper sets. All of these presentation formats are designed to engage conference attendees in discussions of high quality evidence-based practices.

Sunny and warm regards,
Dana Zeidler, Allan Feldman, Ben Herman, Malcolm Butler
University of South Florida
2012 ASTE Program Committee/Co-conference Chairs

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**ASTE 2012**
International Conference
January 4-7, 2012

**Hilton Clearwater Beach Resort**

400 Mandalay Avenue
Clearwater Beach, FL 33767
Tel: 727-461-3222
ASTE Elections

A list of all candidates for the upcoming ASTE elections is included below. Additionally, a link is provided to access each candidate’s position statement and ASTE related CV. To cast your vote, go to http://TheASTE.org. You will need your ASTE PIN and last name to log in (PINs are easily obtained through the link on the ASTE website). Email Eugene Wagner at executivedirector@theaste.org with any questions or if you wish to have hard copy of the ballot.

Elections Committee members would like to thank you, in advance, for your participation in the voting process.

Co-Chairs: Deb Hemler and Sherri Brown
Erica Browstein
Rebecca Schneider
James MacDonald
Sharon Dotger (equity member)

ASTE Elections Candidates

To access each candidate’s position statement and ASTE related CV, please go to http://theaste.org/memberresources/elections/2012/

Candidates for ASTE President (Vote for 1)

Kathy C. Trundle
Dana L. Zeidler

Candidates for Board of Directors at Large (Vote for 2)

Valarie Akerson
Malcolm B. Butler
Nate Carnes
Allan Feldman

Candidates for Elections Committee (Vote for 3)

Len Annetta
Karen E. Irving
Rose M. Pringle

Aimee Govett
Nam-Hwa Kang
Scott Robinson
Call for Papers—CITE Science Education Section

TEST ASTE members are invited to submit their papers for the Science Education section of Contemporary Issues in Technology and Teacher Education (CITE Journal). Contemporary Issues in Technology and Teacher Education (CITE) is an electronic publication of the Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education (SITE), established as a multimedia, interactive counterpart of the Journal of Technology and Teacher Education. The Science Education section of CITE Journal is co-sponsored by The Association for Science Teacher Education to publish peer-reviewed research reports and theoretical articles on the use of innovative technologies in science teacher education.

Manuscripts should directly address technology within science teacher education. Science teacher education is defined broadly. Papers may focus on science teachers at any career stage including preservice, new, continuing, or teacher leaders. Manuscripts that examine how technology can enhance programs, courses, or professional development as well as collaboration and partnerships are welcome. Papers that describe innovative approaches to technology enhanced science teacher education are specifically encouraged.

To submit your manuscript to the Science Education section of the CITE Journal, go to http://aace.org/Publish. Log in with your AACE login information or create a new log in. Select “submit article.” Be sure to select CITE (science), as the journal.

Rebecca Schneider
CITE Editor, Science Education Section

TEOK Investigations

Ever thought of teaching abroad for a year? The October 15th deadline for the Fulbright Teacher Program is approaching! This is an international professional development opportunity for K-12 educators.

The Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program http://www.fulbrightteacherexchange.org/cte.cfm provides opportunities for teachers to participate in direct exchanges of positions with colleagues from other countries for a semester or a year. By living and working abroad, exchange teachers gain an understanding and appreciation of different educational systems and cultures, and enrich their schools and communities by providing students with new perspectives about the world in which they live.

The Distinguished Fulbright Awards in Teaching Program is designed to recognize and encourage excellence in teaching in the U.S. and abroad. Twenty-four highly talented U.S. and international teachers are selected to receive a grant to study at a university, conduct research, teach classes and workshops, and develop a project pertaining to their field of educational inquiry during their semester overseas.

See http://www.fulbrightteacherexchange.org/ for application information.

**ASTE Newsletter**

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

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Editor: Todd Campbell  
Phone: 435-797-7038  
Fax: 435-797-1441  
Email: todd.campbell@usu.edu

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ASTE President  
Randy Bell