President’s Message
Contributed by Valarie Akerson

Musings and Thoughts

As my year of presidency is coming to a close, I find myself reflecting on the year, and I find myself, as always, grateful to be an ASTE member. It is always a bit of a risk to run for an office, as certainly one always wonders what you might get yourself into if you actually get elected. It is my pleasure to state that ASTE is a healthy and collaborative organization where voices are heard and where board members share ideas, listen to others, and make decisions with the best interests of the organization in mind. One example is the recent survey—the board collected ideas from
membership to consider making organizational changes. Of course, it is never possible to make all people in an organization happy simultaneously, but we sincerely attempt to do our best. Annually, there is a call for ASTE members to consider running for office, or nominating someone to run for the board. It is seriously as simple as sending in the name of the person you wish to have considered through the member website. The nominations and elections committee will follow up with the potential candidate, asking for the required documentation in line with ASTE policy. Of course, the person who is nominated would need to first agree to run. I know I have personally nominated several people who never appear on the ballot, and I imagine that is because they decline to run. I am hopeful that once you read my reflections on how rewarding it is to be part of ASTE, that those who are nominated will agree to run. In any case, look for that nomination call in 2020 and nominate worthy candidates, and if you are nominated, please consider running, to serve ASTE as ASTE has served you, its member.

One of the really great things that took place in late August was attending ESERA in Bologna, Italy. I always enjoy this conference, but this year was especially great because we had decided to highlight ASTE internationally by distributing ASTE ribbons to ASTE members to add to their name badges. Past President Tisha Morrell and I distributed them to any and all ASTE members we saw at ESERA, and there was a huge number! And people actually did ask us about ASTE once they saw the name badges! Of course, that doesn't mean they actually became members, or will become members in the future, though that would be great, but it was clear that there was interest in ASTE by those in attendance at ESERA. We intend to distribute these ribbons at other international events in the future, to further highlight ASTE globally.

In any case, ASTE is a healthy, strong, and collegial organization, with caring members. I’m fortunate to have had the opportunity to serve as the president! And looking forward to continuing that service as past-president.

Valarie Akerson, ASTE President
Dust off your hats and polish your boots! The 2020 ASTE Conference in San Antonio, Texas is just around the corner! The conference planning team has been working carefully to provide the ASTE membership opportunities to network, discover new research, and engage in critical dialogue about pressing issues in teacher education.

The keynote address for the 2020 conference will be given by Ramy Mahmoud. Mr. Mahmoud is an inspiring speaker, a Biology Teacher in Plano, Texas, and Senior Lecturer at the University of Texas at Dallas. His research interests include understanding the effects of society and environment on student learning and success. We are excited to have him join us.

Catch up with your ASTE colleagues on the beautiful San Antonio Riverwalk and experience some of that world-renowned Texas hospitality. “Everything is bigger in Texas” – we hope to make this conference one of the best yet.
1. **The Riverwalk** – The Riverwalk is 13 miles of restaurants, bars, and shopping along the San Antonio River. The conference hotel is conveniently situated on the Riverwalk where you will be able to network with colleagues and enjoy San Antonio’s nightlife.

2. **Tex-Mex** – Other states have Mexican food, Texas has Tex-Mex. There are numerous Tex-Mex restaurants to try in downtown San Antonio to, from street vendors to high end. There is a saying, “Once you’ve had Tex-Mex, you’ll never go back!”

3. **The Weather** – Get away from the dreary cold and snow. Come to Texas where the average high is in the mid-60s and the average low is in the 40s.

4. **The Alamo** – For the history buffs in the group, the historic Alamo is located just a couple of blocks from the hotel.

5. **The Friendly State** – Texas (or Tejas in Spanish) is the Caddo Indian word for “friend.” Use your time at the conference to connect with new and old friends to collaborate on projects and learn from each other.

Additional information on things to do in San Antonio can be found at: [https://www.visitsanantonio.com/](https://www.visitsanantonio.com/). The downtown dining guide lists 71 restaurants and has 20 items under “nightlife!”

The 2020 ASTE Conference Co-chairs – Gil Naizer and Janice Meyer
Pre-conference Workshop-Project WILD
Contributed by Michael Kamen

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is offering a Project WILD Facilitator Training. Project WILD Facilitators present Project WILD workshops and distribute this valuable resource to their students and to groups in their community. Participants will be put in touch with their local WILD sponsor and learn about how to offer Project WILD in their state.

Project WILD is the collaborative product of departments of natural resources and educators delivering current accurate science with best practices in pedagogy. Project WILD activities use wildlife and wildlife issues to build critical thinking skills from awareness to knowledge to responsible action.

Kiki Corry (Texas Project WILD Coordinator) and Michael Kamen (Professor at Southwestern University) will lead the 8-hour workshop on January 8th at the San Antonio Zoo.

The workshop is limited to 25 participants.

There is a $50 fee for the workshop which includes all three of the Texas Project WILD Suite; Project WILD K-12, Aquatic WILD K-12; and Growing Up WILD Early Childhood.

Please address any questions to Michael Kamen kamenm@southwestern.edu or Kiki Corry Kiki.Corry@tpwd.texas.gov.

Additional information about Project WILD may be found here.

Preregistration is required. Please click here to register.

Project WILD is sponsored by Texas Parks and Wildlife. Registration has been made possible through a partnership with Texas Wildlife Association.
We are pleased to announce that Volume 4, Issue 4 of the Innovations in Science Teacher Education journal is now available at:

http://innovations.theaste.org/publication/volume-4/issue-4-19/

This issue features an article that describes an end-of-semester *maker* project designed to introduce preservice science teachers to *making* as an educational movement. This issue also contains an article that presents the design and implementation of an adaptive learning platform with elementary/middle science methods course. This issue further has an article that describes the experiences of 12 STEM preservice teachers enrolled in a classroom-based global collaboration enhanced course during their teacher preparation program.

We are also extremely thankful for our dedicated Editorial Review Board members who always provide insightful comments and suggestions to authors.

Please help us to spread the news about the Innovations journal by sharing the URL (http://innovations.theaste.org/) with your colleagues who may not be ASTE members!

Please join our Facebook Group at https://www.facebook.com/ISTEjournal/ so you can receive announcements regarding the Innovations journal.

If you have any questions regarding the Innovations journal, please contact the editors: Rommel Miranda (Rmiranda@towson.edu) or Ron Hermann (Rhermann@towson.edu).
ASTE Graduate Student Forum Updates
Contributed by Shana Lee, Leiflyn Gamborg, and Melanie Kinskey

Call for GSF Leadership Self-Nominations

We are excited to announce the call for self-nominations for the ASTE Graduate Student Forum officer positions. Election of new officers will occur during the graduate student luncheon at the upcoming ASTE conference. There are two opportunities to serve as a GSF officer:

- **President-elect**: Two-year commitment; help the president plan and lead conference sessions; maintain regular communication with graduate student members of ASTE; serve as president in second year of term.

- **Vice President**: One-year commitment; support the president and president-elect in planning and leading conference sessions and communication efforts.

Detailed position descriptions and eligibility information can be found [here](#). The deadline for self-nominations is December 1, 2019. **Nominate yourself here.**

Please note that our GSF elections will take place at the Graduate Student Forum Business Luncheon. You can sign up to attend the luncheon when you complete your [online conference registration](#). This luncheon is open to any ASTE members who would like to attend, but voting will be restricted to graduate students.

**ASTE 2020 Graduate Student Forum Sessions**

We will be offering a variety of graduate student sessions in San Antonio. Look for a flyer at the on-site registration desk for more information (including times and locations) about the graduate student sessions!

- Graduate Student Forum Business Luncheon
- Three Minute Thesis® Competition
- Graduate Student Workshop: Preparing for the Workforce
- Graduate Student Forum Meeting
- Informal Social
Graduate Student Recognition

Have you or a graduate student you mentor reached a significant milestone this year? We want to recognize the important work being done by ASTE’s graduate student members. Being accepted to present at a conference for the first time, passing preliminary exams, publishing, having a successful defense...we want to hear it all! Share graduate student achievements for inclusion in future newsletters using this form.

Thank you, and see you in San Antonio!

Make sure to like the ASTE Graduate Student Forum Facebook Page and follow us on Twitter (@ASTE_GradForum).

Shana Lee - President, Graduate Student Forum (slee@bagley.msstate.edu)

Leiflyn Gamborg - President-Elect, Graduate Student Forum (lgambo1@lsu.edu)

Melanie Kinskey - Vice President, Graduate Student Forum (melaniekinskey@gmail.com)

Katie Green - Graduate Student Board Member (kegreen4@ncsu.edu)
ASTE Elections
Contributed by Erin Peters-Burton and Rita Hagevik

ASTE elections will run from October 1, 2019 through November 15, 2019. The slate of candidates is listed below. The ballot and candidate background information are available at http://theaste.org/resources/elections/. You must be a 2019 member and logged in to view the information and vote.

President (1)
Judith Lederman
Deborah Hanuscin

Board Member at Large (2)
Jerrid Kruse
Alan Oliveria
Eric Pyle
Judith Morrison

Elections Committee (3)
Amanda Glaze
Julie Contino
Joshua Ellis
Mike Borowczak
Ingrid Carter

Questions should be directed to Erin Peters-Burton at epeters1@gmu.edu or Rita Hagevik at rita.hagevik@uncp.edu.

Technical difficulties should be referred to John Rhea at des@theaste.org.

Regards,
The ASTE Elections Committee
Mid-Atlantic – ASTE Meeting News
Contributed by Tina Cartwright, Regional Director

On September 27-28, 2019, the annual meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Science Teacher Education met in Pipestem, WV. Conference coordinators Jeffrey Carver (West Virginia University), Tina Cartwright (Marshall University), Deb Hemler (Fairmont State University) and Paula Magee (Indiana University Purdue University – Indianapolis) arranged a wonderful event at the wild and wonderful Pipestem Resort State Park in West Virginia.

2019 Conference Committee (l to r): Paula Magee, Jeffrey Carver, Deb Hemler, Tina Cartwright
The 51 attendees, including 15 graduate students, had opportunities to participate in 5 paper sessions with 14 presentations, 4 roundtable sessions with 14 roundtable presentations, and 12 poster presentations. The number of first-time attendees was 13, and 9 states were represented (Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia). The conference ended with a Business Meeting where Kristie Gutierrez (Old Dominion University) was elected to serve as treasurer. Appalachian State University and North Carolina State University colleagues will be coordinating together to host next year’s conference in Blowing Rock, NC.

We awarded our seventh Dr. Patricia A. Obenauf Graduate Student Research Presentation Award to Anna Hutchinson from University of Cincinnati. This award is a merit-based honor intended to recognize outstanding peer-reviewed contributions to research, as well as delivery of these contributions. Anna presented *Perceptions of Teacher Leadership: The Impact of Organizational Structures on the Professional Identity of Urban STEM Teacher Leaders*. As a recipient of this award, she received a certificate and $750 to travel and present her research at the 2020 International ASTE conference in San Antonio, TX. Notification and requirements to apply for the 2020 MAASTE Graduate Student Presentation Award will be submitted via the listserv and on our Facebook group page.

We would like to thank out-going treasurer Lisa Gross and out-going secretary Meredith Kier for their outstanding dedication, commitment to excellence, and service to MA-ASTE.
North-Central – ASTE Meeting News
Contributed by Josh Ellis

North Central held their 2019 Regional Meeting at the stunning Bell Museum on the University of Minnesota’s St. Paul campus from Oct 11-13. Attendees braved an early snowfall to gather for presentations that showcased new research, innovative teaching techniques, and lively discussions on the topic of science teacher education. The following new officers were voted in during the meeting: Jerrid Kruse (Interim Director), Jaci Easter (Director-Elect), Hallie Edgerly (Secretary) and Kean Roberts (Graduate Student Representative). These officers-elect will join Jesse Wilcox (Treasurer) when their terms begin in January 2020.

North Central’s 2020 Regional Meeting will take place at Drake University in Des Moines, IA, and the 2021 Regional Meeting will take place in Winona, MN. All ASTE members are welcome to join our regional session at the ASTE 2020 International Conference in San Antonio, TX to welcome our new officers and learn more about North Central-ASTE!
ASTE News – In Memoriam

We are deeply saddened to share that our friend, colleague, and mentor, Dr. Robert E. Yager, passed away on August 6, 2019. Dr. Yager was a prolific author who devoted his life to teaching, writing, and advocating on behalf of science education worldwide. His research focused on Science-Technology-Society (STS), which affected the recent STEM efforts aimed at integrated cross-disciplinary community-focused problem solving.

As part of his tireless efforts, he developed one of the largest graduate programs in science education in the U.S. and directed numerous grants. He served as president of seven science education organizations and academies including the Association for Science Teacher Education (ASTE), the National Association for Research in Science Teaching (NARST) and the National Science Teaching Association (NSTA). He received multiple awards and recognitions, including the NSTA’s Robert H. Carleton Award for Distinguished Service and the Iowa Governor’s Science Medal in 1990. Dr. Yager authored over 600 research reports, chapters, monographs, and books and chaired nearly 140 doctoral dissertation committees, nurturing an entire new generation of science educators.

Nationally, he developed the Iowa Chautauqua Program, a staff development model for K-12 science teachers. The program received national recognition from the National Diffusion Network, National Staff Development Council, and the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory.

Internationally, he worked with former students throughout the world promoting research and professional development focused on STS and STEM in Korea, China, Japan, Thailand, Malaysia, Estonia, Turkey, and Germany. As an educator, Dr. Yager was brilliant, always kind and welcoming. Conversing with him was stimulating—he would always end classes and meetings with an encouraging remark. As a mentor, Dr. Yager always showed his passion and genuine
interest in supporting his students. International students, as newcomers to the country and culture found in Dr. Yager an inspiring teacher, a great advisor, and a critical friend. We feel proud of having worked under his guidance; he enriched our lives and advanced our vision of science education.

Dr. Yager was born on April 13, 1930, in Carroll, Iowa, where his education began in a small rural school in Viola Township in Audubon County, Iowa, near the family farm. He attended the University of Northern Iowa, graduated at age 20, and took a teaching position in Chapin, Iowa. Here he implemented his ideas of involving students with their personal questions for exploration and learning. He then started graduate studies at the University of Iowa but was drafted into the Army during the Korean War. He was deployed to an Army school in Germany where he taught mathematics and reading to soldiers with less than 4th grade abilities. He learned to incorporate social issues and societal problems into the curriculum to engage his unconventional students to really learn. After his military service, he returned to the University of Iowa where he earned a PhD in plant physiology. In 1957, he became the head of the Science Department at the University Laboratory High School and remained in that position until the school closed in 1972. Dr. Yager held various leadership roles as a professor of science education with the University of Iowa until his retirement in 2006. As Professor Emeritus he continued to be involved as an advisor and mentor with several visiting scholars until his death.

Beyond his work in science education, Dr. Yager was a philanthropist involved in the support of the Phyllis Yager Diversity Teaching Award at the University of Iowa, the Dr. Robert E. and Phyllis M. Yager Exemplary Teaching Recognition Award at the University of Northern Iowa, the NSTA Robert E. Yager Exemplary Teaching Award, the Iowa Children’s Museum, numerous science education organizations, as well as local theatres. He established charitable trusts that will continue his philanthropic efforts and awards for scholars far into the future.

Dr. Yager leaves an enduring legacy and impact on the field of science education and our community and will surely be missed by those who were fortunate enough to have known and worked with him.

We’d like to end with some advice we remember hearing from Dr. Yager frequently as we try to imagine what it sounded like in his intentioned and distinguished voice: “The article needs to flow.”

Contributed by Todd Campbell, William Medina-Jerez, and Mary Ann Mullinnix
Newsletter Information

Published four times a year by the Association for Science Teacher Education.

Newsletter Editor News!

As you may have heard, “nothing gold can stay.” After three years of serving as editors of the Newsletter, our time has come to an end. It has been such a pleasure serving in this role and we thank all of you who have contributed to the Newsletter over these years. We are excited to pass the torch on to the capable leadership of Jennifer Oramous and Amity Gann! Jennifer and Amity will begin their duty as Newsletter Editors for the next Winter issue! Happy trails to you all!

p.s. – all you Newsletter sleuths need to be sure to come find us in San Antonio to claim your Newsletter Sleuth prize!

Join us in welcoming Jennifer Oramous and Amity Gann – your new Newsletter editors!

Newsletter Sleuth Challenge: Use the clue below to locate the ‘easter egg’ to become a Newsletter Sleuth! Remember to click on it.

Clue: When a little boy took many lives