



Mississippi Science Spots

December 2008

**Mississippi Department of
Education**

Office of Curriculum and Instruction

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Professional Development

MAMLE Conference

The Mississippi Association of Middle Level Educators (MAMLE) Conference, "Rolling on the River," will be held at the Vicksburg Convention Center on January 29-31, 2009. The keynote address will be given by the world-renown speaker and educator, Harry Wong. The Early Bird Registration deadline is **December 19, 2008**. Learn more at <http://www.mamle.org/conference.html>.

2009 National Science Teachers Association Conference in New Orleans March 19–22, 2009

Celebrate science in magical New Orleans, one of our most beloved cities. Attendee registration is now open. Register online or download and submit an Advanced Registration Form in Adobe Acrobat format. Find more information at <http://www.nsta.org/conferences/2009new>.



Professional Development Opportunities

The U.S. Satellite Laboratory announces several professional development opportunities for schools in each state. Find information at www.us-satellite.net about the no-fee, proven, and exciting, thematic science curriculum with teacher training and ongoing support.

National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT) Nominations

Each year, the National Association of Biology Teachers through its Outstanding Biology Teacher Awards attempts to identify an excellent biology instructor in each of the 50 U.S. states and territories. Nominations of worthy candidates are now being solicited to recognize those individuals whose outstanding work in the classroom qualifies them for this award. Nominate a Mississippi teacher today at <http://mypeoplepc.com/members/aleta/MSABE/id7.html>.



Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST)

Congratulations to Mississippi finalists of the 2009 PAEMST Awards for Science, Grades K-6. Myra Kinchen of Clinton Public School District, Kerry Matthews of DeSoto County School District, and Jeanette Simmons of South Pontotoc School District were recently honored at a reception and other recognition activities at the Mississippi Department of Education. The national awardee will receive \$10,000 and a trip to Washington D.C. in the spring.



PAEMST Nominations and Applications

Nominations and applications for the 2008-2009 award cycle are now available for teachers in grades 7-12 at <http://www.paemst.org>. PAEMST nominations must be submitted by March 1, 2009.



This symbol indicates items that are new in this issue of MS Science Spots.



Free Web Seminars

National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) Web Seminars are FREE 90-minute, online, live experiences that allow participants to interact with national experts, scientists, engineers, and fellow colleagues. Register for the seminars at <http://learningcenter.nsta.org/products/webseminars.aspx>. Upcoming seminar dates are as follows:

- Dec. 2 Teach Science Concepts and Inquiry with Food (WS #1)
- Dec. 9 Chemistry Comes Alive III: Water
- Dec. 10 Igniting Students Interests in Science Careers
- Dec. 11 Force and Motion: Stop Faking It!
- Dec. 16 Discover the Universe: From Galileo to Today
- Dec. 17 Picture-Perfect Science Lessons
- Dec. 18 Teach Science Concepts and Inquiry with Food (WS #2)



Project Learning Tree (PLT) Workshops

Project Learning Tree® is an award-winning, multi-disciplinary environmental education program for educators and students in PreK through grade 12. PLT, a program of the American Forest Foundation, is one of the most widely used environmental education programs in the United States. Contact the Mississippi PLT State Coordinator at handerson212@gmail.com to learn more about the upcoming workshops scheduled below:

- December 1, Mississippi State University
- December 2, Perkinston
- January 2, Aberdeen
- January 5, Richton
- January 6, Wiggins

Grant Applications and Lessons Plans

Earth Day Network has announced new grants for 2008-2009: (1) The National Civic Education Project is designed to promote a more democratically active citizenry of environmental education in today's society. (2) The Campus Climate Challenge provides stipends and year-long support to climate change educators. Information about the grants is available at <http://ww2.earthday.net/node/13458>. Additionally, Earth Day Network's civic and environmental education lesson plans and resources may be accessed at www.earthday.net/~earthday/lessonplans.



NASA Endeavor Science Teaching Certificate Project

The NASA Endeavor Science Teaching Certificate Project awards over 40, one-year fellowships each year to current and prospective teachers. In partnership with State Departments of Education, Endeavor Fellows take five graduate courses in an innovative online format from the comfort of their home or school. They learn to apply research-based pedagogical strategies and cutting-edge content to their classroom contexts while becoming a part of a special network of like-minded educators across the Nation. Contact <http://www.us-satellite.net> for more information.

Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowships

Applications are now available for the Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator

Fellowships for K-12 math, science, and technology teachers. Einstein Fellows spend a school year in Washington, D.C., serving in a federal agency or on Capitol Hill. For more information about the Einstein Fellows program, visit www.trianglecoalition.org/ein.htm. The application deadline is **January 13, 2009**.

Community Action Grants

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is offering community action grants to provide funds to individuals as well as local community-based nonprofit organizations for innovative programs that promote education and equity for women and girls. Information about the one-year and two-year grants are available at http://www.aauw.org/education/fga/fellowships_grants/community_action.cfm.

Student Activities



Kids Learn Science, Win \$10,000!

ExploraVision is a national science competition that encourages students to create visions of future technologies. It teaches them creative thinking, problem solving, and how to organize and convey their knowledge effectively. Students on four winning teams each receive a \$10,000 savings bond! Learn more at <http://www.LessonPlansPage.com/to/08-11-Tosh-HC>.

Mississippi Regional Science Bowl

The annual Mississippi Regional Science Bowl will take place on Friday, **February 13, 2009**, on the campus of Mississippi University for Women (MUW) in Columbus, MS. The Science Bowl is a Tournament-style academic competition that challenges and recognizes high school students' knowledge of sciences and mathematics. MUW scholarships will be awarded to individuals for outstanding performance in the competition. Visit http://www.muw.edu/sci_math/wsb/ or contact Dionne Fortenberry at dfortenberry@as.muw.edu or (662) 329-7246 for more information.

New Scholarship Opportunity

The Davidson Institute for Talent Development is offering high achieving young people across the country the opportunity to be named as 2009 Davidson Fellows, an honor accompanied by a \$50,000, \$25,000, or \$10,000 scholarship in recognition of a significant piece of work in Science, Technology, Mathematics, Music, Literature, Philosophy, or Outside the Box. Download an application at www.DavidsonFellows.org. The deadline to apply is **March 4, 2009**.

CoCoRaHS Needs Volunteers!

The Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network (CoCoRaHS) is soliciting volunteers to collect daily measurements of rain, hail, and snow. Learn more at <http://www.cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=aboutus>.

Junior Engineering Technical Society (JETS) Competition

The Junior Engineering Technical Society (JETS) provides students in grades 9–12 the opportunity to discover the practical applications of math and science by solving some of today's greatest engineering challenges. More than 14,000 students compete every year in this fun and fast-paced competition that inspires creativity, teamwork, critical thinking and valuable insight into the world of engineering. The registration deadline for the "Behind the Scenes: Theme Parks," TEAMS Competition to be held at the University of Mississippi is **January 31, 2009**. Visit www.jets.org for more information.

"eCYBERMISSION" Competition

Registration for the U.S. Army's seventh annual eCYBERMISSION competition for students in grades 6-9 is now open. The eCYBERMISSION is a free, web-based science, math, and technology competition that allows students to compete for regional and national awards while working together to solve problems in their community. The competition also promotes self-discovery for all students by helping them recognize the real-life applications of math, science and technology. Learn more at www.ecybermission.com.

ExploraVision Awards Program

The Toshiba/National Science Teachers Association ExploraVision Awards Program, one of the world's largest K-12 science and technology competitions, is now accepting entries for its 2009

competition. Up to \$240,000 in savings bonds will be awarded this year to student winners whose innovative ideas combine imagination with the tools of science. Toshiba laptop computers for schools and other prizes for students, teachers, and mentors will also be presented. The deadline for the 2009 competition is **January 28, 2009**. For more information, visit www.exploravision.org.

2009 Thacher Scholars Award

The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) announces the 2009 Thacher Scholars Award. This national competition is for high school students to demonstrate the best use of geospatial technologies or data to study Earth. Learn more at <http://www.strategies.org/docs/ThacherAnnouncement2009.pdf>.



2009 Hurricane Bowl

Registration is now open for 2009 Hurricane Bowl, hosted by the J.L. Scott Marine Education Center. The competition is intended to increase knowledge of the oceans as well as raise the visibility and public understanding of the national investment in ocean-related research. Find more information at http://www.nosb.org/?anchor=about_nosb. Email registration forms to Samuel.clardy@usm.edu, by **December 12, 2008**.

Youth and Adult Outdoor Photography Contest 2009

The Mississippi Wildlife Federation is hosting the Youth and Adult Outdoor Photography Contest 2009. Youth, ages 10-18, are invited to submit photographs no later than **June 1, 2009**. Go to http://www.mswildlife.org/events/youth_adult_contest.html for more information.

The Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge

The Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge encourages student teams from grades 6-8, under the mentorship of a teacher or adult supervisor, to identify an environmental issue in their community, research the issue using scientific investigation, and create a replicable green solution using web-based curriculum tools powered by Discovery Education. To access additional information, visit <http://www.wecanchange.com/media-room>.

Free Resources

Free Environmental Lessons

Clean Sweep U.S.A. offers lessons that provide ideas for web-directed research and in-class activities. Included is comprehensive teacher background information on litter prevention, waste reduction and beautification. Visit

<http://www.cleansweepusa.org/educators.aspx> for more information.

Free Astronomy Software Program

Celestia, a free software program, allows astronomy students to traverse time and space, through Celestia's three-dimensional virtual universe and transforms a classroom into a high tech space-simulation experience. Learn more at <http://www.shatters.net/celestia/>.

The Futures Channel

One of the main goals of *The Futures Channel* is to produce mini-documentaries and multi-media content that educators can use to enliven their curriculums and connect mathematics, science, technology, and engineering to the real world so that students have context and purpose for what they are learning. More information may be found at www.thefutureschannel.com.

Journey to Planet Earth

With companion educational resources, Journey to Planet Earth can transport young people on a trip around the globe to explore the environment from a global perspective and to find solutions for their own communities. Explore resources for educators at all levels at <http://www.pbs.org/journeytoplanetearth/education/index.html>.

Free DVD's and Teacher Guides

Science Screen Reports offers DVD videos free of charge to schools through corporate sponsorship. Topics related to

science, engineering, medicine, technology, conservation and the environment are designed to inform, motivate and pique the curiosity of elementary and secondary students. Visit <http://www.ssrvideo.com/about.html> for more information.

Free Classroom Activities

The 2007 Advanced Technology Environmental and Energy Center (ATEEC) is a national center that promotes and supports environmental technology education to address the needs of the national and global workforce. Over 25 activities were developed for use in the classroom, which are available at <http://www.ateec.org>.

Science Fair Central

Discovery Education (www.discoveryeducation.com) has launched a new website to provide K-8 teachers with a comprehensive approach to science education. In addition to a wealth of general resources, the site includes a link to science fair ideas and resources. Learn more at <http://school.discoveryeducation.com/sciencefaircentral/?pID=fair>.

Subscribe to MS Science Spots

Administrators and educators who wish to subscribe to this newsletter may add their names to the mailing list by sending a blank email to mwroten@mde.k12.ms.us with the subject line, "Listserve."