



Mississippi Science Spots

January 2009

**Mississippi Department of
Education**

Office of Curriculum and Instruction

601-359-2586

Science Specialist: Mary Wroten

mwroten@mde.k12.ms.us

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. 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.*

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:

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/](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**.

Student Activities



Third Annual Gravity-Driven Catapult (Trebuchet) Competition

The University of Mississippi School of Engineering and the Mississippi Junior Academy are inviting all students in grades 7-12 to participate in the Third Annual Gravity-Driven Catapult (Trebuchet) Competition on April 21, 2009. Registration forms, a list of participants, and students' t-shirt sizes must be submitted by **April 7, 2009**. For more

information, contact Maxine Woolsey at mwoolsey@olemiss.edu or 662-915-1849.

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**.

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 in a 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

The eCYBERMISSION is a free, web-based science, math, and technology competition that allows students in grades 6-9 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. 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>.

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 to identify an environmental issue in their community, research the issue, 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



Teachers' Domain

“Teachers' Domain” is a free digital library of multimedia resources for K–12 audiences, focusing primarily on life sciences. Teachers and students can use classroom-ready streaming video clips,

audio clips and interactive activities. There are over 150 resources from broadcast programs such as Nova, A Science Odyssey, and ZOOM. Teachers can integrate Teachers' Domain content into their existing curriculum. Learn more at <http://www.teachersdomain.org>.



Howard Hughes Medical Institute

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute produces many award-winning, free science education resources on DVD, VHS, CD-ROM, and the web. All are free to educators and can be ordered through <http://www.biointeractive.org>.



Ask Dr. Global Change

“Ask Dr. Global Change” is a searchable collection of answers to questions about global warming, ozone depletion, greenhouse gases, and other issues related to climate change. This free service from the Global Change Research Information Office can be found at <http://www.ed.gov/free/s-scienc.html>.



Geologic Time

“Geologic Time” is a short, easily understandable U.S. Geological Survey booklet that discusses the relative time scale, fossil succession, rocks and fossils, and radiometric time scale. Access it at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/gip/geotime/contents.html>.

Seeds Feed the World



“Seeds Feed the World” is a publication from the National Gardening Association. Teachers will discover the history of people/seed partnerships and find ideas for classroom investigations. Download a copy from <http://www.kidsgardening.com/special/seed-news/seedsfeed-03.pdf>.

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.

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.

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>.



Science Education at Jefferson Lab

“Science Education at Jefferson Lab” offers 16 hands-on activities to answer intriguing science questions. Students can learn the periodic table of elements and other science information via flash cards, matching games, and crossword puzzles. Learn more at http://www.free.ed.gov/subjects.cfm?subject_id=41.



Forensics in the Classroom

Court TV has developed, as part of a continuing educational partnership with the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, “Forensics in the Classroom.” Download this free standards-based curriculum supplement at http://www.courtvtv.com/forensics_curriculum.



Real-Time Information

Real-Time Information helps ensure that critical information needed by emergency forecasters & managers during extreme events is available. See "live" views of volcanoes around the world, weather images, geologic & mineral resource information, national flood-threat forecasts, & streamflow information. Visit interactive2.usgs.gov/learningweb/explorer/topic_realttime.asp.



Children's Science Misconceptions

Operation Physics, an Elementary/middle school physics education outreach project of the American Institute of Physics has compiled a list of children's common science misconceptions. Read them at <http://www.amasci.com/miscon/opphys.html>.

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.”