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UPCOMING EVENTS!

GSA North-Central Section
48th Annual Meeting
Lincoln, Nebraska
24 & 25 April 2013

The Central NAGT section will pay the cost of the section NAGT business luncheon to K-14 professionals (members and non-members) who a) cannot afford the cost themselves, and b) make a presentation on any topic at the NC GSA conference that year. **Application forms are at the end of this newsletter.**

**Events sponsored by
NAGT Central Section**

Theme Sessions:

Geoscience Education for K-16: Novel Approaches and Current Research - Katie Lewandowski, Eastern Illinois University (kjlewandowski@eiu.edu) and Mindi Searls, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (msearls2@unl.edu)

We encourage contributions that highlight innovative instructional strategies in the classroom, lab and field. We also welcome abstracts from researchers offering insights into cognition and processing of earth science information that will help us to teach more effectively.

Teacher Workshops:

Climate Workshop for Secondary Teachers, April 26, 2012, 8am-5pm. Katie Lewandowski (kjlewandowski@eiu.edu). Cost: To be decided.

We will be offering a workshop on climate for secondary teachers. We will be showcasing materials developed through IODP's Deep Earth Academy, ANDRILL's outreach and education program, Byrd Polar Research's rock boxes, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, and Augustana College's Fryxell Geology Museum outreach program. We encourage teachers to apply for money to help pay for their costs to attend the workshop. Please send an e-mail to Katie if interested.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As instructors, teachers, professors, and general purveyors of knowledge, we have a lot of leeway as to how we present the material to our students, how much detail we delve into with each topic, and what we focus on with each lecture. I have been listening to my students and interacting with colleagues and it has come to my attention that there is a tremendous amount of variety with respect to what is taught and what is focused on in even different sections of one class.

A major complaint I hear from my students is that some instructors for introductory level classes teach the class as if all the students were majors in that particular field. For example, when on the subject of minerals, one instructor will require his/her students to learn an amount of material about minerals equivalent to what I learned in a 300 level Mineralogy class. In my own Intro class when we talk about minerals, I cover the basics such as what a mineral is, how they are important to society, how they form, and the major families. Do I not cover enough or does the other instructor cover too much? It is a difficult choice.

I know the department I work for has a list of the material that needs to be covered on each topic. As long as the information is covered, we are allowed to add additional information. I treat my Intro classes as just that - an introduction to the subject. I am not saying I am right. I do find it difficult to determine what is too much and what is not enough. I may be alone in this but if others have thoughts or similar concerns, I believe it would help the community of geoscience educators as a whole if we discussed this with each other. I would love to hear how all of you have solved this dilemma or if you have yet to find a happy medium. Perhaps this can be a topic of discourse at meetings, or maybe even a session topic.

Best,
Cullen Erbacher

Mastodont Dig in Your Classroom!

Need a new idea for your geology lab or class? Want to have your students do real science? Then you need to take advantage of the Aurora Mastodont Project * Matrix Analysis Project. We will send to you enough sample free (you pay postage when you return it) to have your entire class process screenwash from the 2004 Mastodont dig. After sorting through the screenwash additional paleoenvironmental interpretations can be included as part of the lab. For more information, contact David Voorhees, dvoorhees@waubonsee.edu or go to <http://www.waubonsee.edu/faculty/dvoorhees/MastodontMatrix/index.html>

Year Award winner for pictures.



2013 Tri-State and GLS SEPM Fall Field Conference: Paleozoic History of Epeiric Seas of the Iowa Basin, October 5th, 2013

It was a wonderful field trip, thanks to Jed Day, Brian Witzke, and other organizers of the excursion. There were close to 100 participants from close to 30 different organizations. Most participants were from not too far afield: Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, Ohio, and Minnesota. However, some participants came from as far away as Brussels, Belgium. There were undergraduate students, graduate students, early career professionals, seasoned professionals, etc. It was a nice diverse group. We stopped at five different localities to see some great stuff! There was lots of rock and fossil collecting. Thanks again to the organizers and the sponsors of this field trip.



2013 MESTA/MAEOE Conference— Whole Earth- Educating a Community, October 4-6, 2013, Belle Isle Park, Detroit, Michigan

By all accounts, this was “an excellent meeting with a good selection of field trips and useful sessions.” You can peruse the program:

http://www.maeoe.com/uploads/MAEOE_2013_Conf_Program_Final.pdf. Thanks to Steve Mattox of Grand Valley State University and recent MESTA Earth Science Teacher of the





Central Section OEST Awardee for 2013! Mary Lestina from City High School, Iowa City

Mary Lestina is in her twelfth year of teaching at City High School in Iowa City, Iowa. She currently teaches Ecology, Physical Geology, and Weather and Climate trimester electives for juniors and seniors, senior level Physics, and freshmen level Foundations of Science III. Mary graduated from the University of Northern Iowa with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in 2000, majoring in All Sciences and Earth Science Education with a minor in Meteorology. She earned her Master's of Science Education Degree from the University of Iowa in 2005 with an emphasis in Earth Science. In 2010, she was awarded the Excellence in Science Teaching Award from the Iowa Academy of Sciences.

As an active member of the Science Department, Mary has worked on curriculum review and standards alignment projects and was part of a team of teachers recognizing the need to extend the Earth Science offerings through Earth Science Trimester Electives. She has worked with science and special education teachers incorporating reading strategies, differentiated learning, and understanding by design strategies into her classroom giving students the best experiences possible. Mary is an active member of the National Science Teachers' Association and the Iowa Academy of Sciences (IAS), presented at several national and local science teacher conferences, and has served as IAS Membership Committee Chair and a member of the IAS Recognition Committee.

Mary has sponsored the Science Club since 2000, and in the past has sponsored the Environmental, Rocket, and Global Perspectives Clubs at City High School. Mary's teaching philosophy is to encourage all students to connect their lives to their education. Her positive attitude, high expectations of every learner, willingness to improve, and a value of every

student's unique abilities makes learning more meaningful for students within her classroom.

Outstanding Earth Science Teacher (OEST) Award – Call for Nominations

Nominations for the OEST award are being accepted for 2014. Please take the time to nominate a deserving teacher in your state or encourage them to nominate themselves. If you have any questions or need additional information, contact Katie Lewandowski (kjlewandowski@eu.edu). All nominations must be submitted online at the NAGT website, <http://nagt.org/nagt/programs/oest.html>. The deadline for 2014 OEST Award is May 15th.

Future Field Opportunities for Earth Science Teachers from GSA

When was the last time you were in the field studying geology? Last summer? 5 years ago? Never? The Geological Society of America has several opportunities for Earth Science teachers to study geology in the field this summer. These trips will help you to use your observations and new-found knowledge so you can effectively communicate geologic concepts with our peers, students, teachers and the general public.

Trips for this summer include:

Explore Australia's Geology (June 15- July 6, 2014)

This is an amazing GeoVenture experience to get a 12 day slice of the very best geosciences of Australia. Registration is due on April 30, 2014.

Illinois Basin Field Camp (June 15-19, 2014)

Join GSA on this 4-day field camp to discover the hidden geological gems of the Illinois Basin in La Salle County. Registration is due on January 10, 2014.

Rocky Mountain Field Camp (June 21-27, 2014)

This five-day field camp will take you around Central Colorado and will allow you to investigate some of the amazing geology that Colorado has to offer. Registration is due on January 10, 2014.

Mammoth Cave Field Camp (July 14-19, 2014)

This field camp will focus on geology, karst, groundwater, biology, ecology, environmental science and a bit of archeology. Come explore the world's longest cave with GSA! Registration is due on February 10, 2014

Explore Hawaiian Volcanoes (Aug. 6-13, 2014)

This seven-day field trip on the Big Island of Hawaii will introduce you to plate tectonics, hot spot volcanism and the geologic features and hazards associated with living on an active volcano. Registration is due on May 15, 2014.

Visit www.geoventures.org to view the itineraries.
Contact Davida Buehler at
dbuehler@geosociety.org if you have questions.
"Because the best geologists have seen the most rocks!"

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NAGT: New Memberships or Renewals

New or renewing members may find the application form at: <http://nagt.org/nagt/membership/index.html>

Central Section NAGT: Call for Service

Please consider serving as an officer. We will need a 2nd Vice President in the late spring. We need more people involved. If you might be interested in taking over the responsibilities of either OEST Award Chair or Secretary (3 year term), please let me know (kilewandowski@eiu.edu). I would be happy to discuss with you the responsibilities, etc.

ANNOUNCING Dorothy LaLonde Stout NAGT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS



In honor of Dottie Stout's outstanding work and lifelong dedication to Earth science Education, NAGT will award three grants in support of the following activities:

- Participation in Earth science classes or workshops
- Attendance at professional scientific or science education meetings
- Participation in Earth science field trips
- Purchase of Earth science materials for classroom use

One grant of \$500 will be awarded to a Community College Faculty

One grant of \$500 will be awarded to a Community College Student

One grant of \$500 will be awarded to a K-12 Educator

Eligibility: Community College Faculty and K-12 teachers who teach one or more Earth science courses and Community College students actively pursuing a career in the Earth sciences are encouraged to apply for these awards.

Application Process: Interested applicants are asked to submit a 1-2 page proposal describing how the grant will be used to support their professional growth in, or classroom teaching of Earth science. The application may be found at <http://nagt.org/nagt/programs/stout.html>

Applications must be received by April 1 with awards being made by April 15th.

Central Section NAGT Business Meeting Fee Application

(available to K-14 professionals)



The North-Central NAGT section may pay the cost of the section NAGT business luncheon to K-14 professionals (NAGT members and non-members) who

- a) cannot afford the cost themselves, and
- b) make a presentation on any topic at the NC GSA conference that year.

Name (*please print*) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____ Country _____

Phone (____) _____ Fax (____) _____ E-mail _____

Check one: ☐ College Faculty at _____

☐ Teacher at _____

☐ Other at _____

Date of North-Central GSA meeting: _____

Name of presentation at meeting: _____

Description of presentation:

Mail to:

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Eastern Illinois University
600 Lincoln Avenue
Charleston, IL 61920-3099

Email to:

kjlewandowski@eiu.edu