



## Virginia Association of Science Teachers

eNotes - Winter 2009

### Journal of Virginia Science Education

Please consider submitting to the Journal of Virginia Science Education. Submissions are accepted in many formats, including reviews of publications affecting science education, letters to the editor, full articles, and more. The current theme is technology integration in science education, but submissions outside of the theme are always considered. For more information and submission guidelines, visit [www.vast.org](http://www.vast.org) or email Michele Lombard at [journal@vast.org](mailto:journal@vast.org).

### Science Standards of Learning Review

An important part of the review process for the Science Standards of Learning is the solicitation of comments from teachers, administrators, curriculum supervisors, science educators, and others who have expertise in the content of the current standards. Please be aware that you may review the current standards at the Virginia Department of Education's [web site](#) and comment on the current standards by e-mail at [sciencesol@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:sciencesol@doe.virginia.gov). Comments will be received at this address from **January 23**, 2009, until **February 23**, 2009. Please take time to comment on your Standards of Learning. What should stay the same? What should be changed? What should we protect? What should we guard against? Let your voice be heard!

The Department of Education is also seeking nominations from division superintendents for individuals who are qualified and available to serve on committees to review the Science Standards of Learning during the summer of 2009. Nominees should be teachers, principals, administrators, content specialists, or others who have expertise in the science content areas and the standards. If you are interested, let your supervisor or superintendent know.

Please see [Supt. Memo #012-09](#) for further information and a nomination form.

### Virginia Outstanding Biology Teacher Award

Nominate your candidate for the Virginia Outstanding Biology Teacher Award. Contact Kathy Frame at [KathySFrame@aol.com](mailto:KathySFrame@aol.com) for nomination forms or more information. Deadline **February 27**, 2009.

### 2009 Virginia Junior Academy

The VJAS Annual Meeting will be held at Virginia Commonwealth University, May 26-28. Student research papers are due by **March 2**. Complete information may be found at [www.vjas.org](http://www.vjas.org), or by contacting Susan Booth at [susanscience@msn.com](mailto:susanscience@msn.com).

### Thomas Jefferson Medal for Outstanding Contributions to Natural Science Education

The Virginia Museum of Natural History Foundation invites nominations for its 22nd Annual Thomas Jefferson Medal for Outstanding Contributions to Natural Science. This award will be given to a

Virginia educator who has made significant contributions to natural history, environmental science, or science education at any academic level. The medals will be presented during a special awards reception on Wednesday, April 22, 2009 at the VMNH facility at 21 Starling Avenue, Martinsville. Nominations are due by **March 27**, 2009. For further information and award criteria please [click here](#).

## 2009 Professional Development Institute

### Engage, Explore, Empower

Mark your calendar on **November 5-7**, 2009, for our VAST Professional Development Institute at the Dulles Airport Hilton Hotel. This PDI promises to be the best yet, with access to the Washington, DC area as an additional feature of the location. Come to *Engage, Explore* and *Empower* yourself as a science educator and bring your family to enjoy the sights of our nation's capital. The hotel provides free transportation to the DC Metro system, one of the best subway systems in the world, so why not come on Thursday, enjoy the conference through Saturday afternoon, and then stay over to see the sights? If you want some tips on getting to the hotel while avoiding possible traffic snarls, look on the VAST Website and on the hotel Webpage for directions.

Not sure you can afford to come to the VAST PDI? Is your school district cutting back on travel support? School districts are more likely to support travel if you're presenting at the PDI. Share something with us by leading a session in 2009! Look on the VAST Website for the proposal form and directions for submitting. Together, we can make this the best conference ever!

## Earth and Environmental Science in Ireland

Interested in a unique experience in Earth & Environmental Science? The Departments of Geology & Environmental Science and of Biology are offering a unique experience for teachers of science July 1-16, in Western Ireland. Initially aimed at elementary and middle school teachers (preservice and inservice), the offering has been expanded to include secondary teachers as well. Six hours of graduate credit through JMU are being offered for this field-intensive course in a wide-open environment. Space is very limited, so if interested, please [click here](#) or email Eric Pyle at [pyleej@jmu.edu](mailto:pyleej@jmu.edu) for details on applications, fees and costs, and specific details.

## ChemEd 2009

ChemEd 2009 is a biennial conference focused on sharing strategies and experiences for chemistry educators from the elementary to the college level. It will be held at Radford University here in Virginia from August 2 to August 6, 2009. The following link is the conference's website and provides information and key dates about presentations, registrations, and housing: [www.radford.edu/~chemed2009/](http://www.radford.edu/~chemed2009/).

## VAST on Facebook

Got a Facebook account yet? VAST now has an organizational page on Facebook and would like to invite all members and friends to join. If you're not familiar with Facebook, it's a great way to connect with friends and colleagues; share educational links, images, and videos; and, promote science education events across the state. To become a VAST fan, click on the Facebook icon at the bottom of any VAST.org web page, or go to: [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and sign up for a Facebook account and then browse to or enter the name "Virginia Association of Science Teachers" in the search box. See you on Facebook!

The Virginia Association of Science Teachers is affiliated with the National Association of Science Teachers. For more information about VAST, visit our web site at [www.vast.org](http://www.vast.org).

To renew or sign-up for membership online, click [here](#).

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