

\*\*This is a 2008 RT listserv message. Remember, if you want to respond to an individual, do not use the "Reply" button. Instead, use the "Forward" button and cut-and-paste the individual's email address in the "To" field.\*\*

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**2008 RT NEWS 5 – May 30, 2008**  
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### 1. RT PROGRAM NEWS

**a. TO DO NOW: Book your travel for the Science Teaching Forum!** Some of you have already booked your flights! Thank you for your prompt attention and returning the requested forms. We emailed the Science Teaching Forum Travel Memo last week. Let Mel know if you prefer to receive a printed hardcopy, and we'll include it in your next Assignment package. You can also download the documents at: <http://www.the-aps.org/education/2008rts/forum.shtml>

It has come to our attention that some airfares booked through our travel agent, Globetrotter, are higher than if an individual was to directly purchase the ticket from the airline's website. For any fare greater than \$500, Globetrotter contacts Brooke for approval. In our efforts to conserve expenditures from our grant, we would greatly appreciate if you can:

1. **Search for your own online fares first** (and then check what fares Globetrotter can offer); *Instead of using Expedia, Travelocity, etc. to find the cheapest flights, try [www.sidestep.com](http://www.sidestep.com). It searches all of the above plus sites like JetBlue and cheaptickets.com so you can see the lowest online prices by airline. THEN go to the airline website directly and you may be able to save another \$20.*
2. **Do not purchase the fare you find until you get authorization from Brooke!** Send an email with your fare info to Brooke ([bbruthers@the-aps.org](mailto:bbruthers@the-aps.org)) to directly purchase yourself, if possible, for reimbursement. Keep in mind that we are in our offices during the work week between 9am-5pm (EST), and can generally return your emails within a few hours.
3. **After receiving approval from Brooke, purchase the ticket!** And of course, follow-up with the rest of the Travel Memo information. Depending on your need, you will be reimbursed either before or after the Science Teaching Forum in July. **NOTE:** The APS Education Office does **NOT** book your travel for you! We just need your finalized flight plans to coordinate the pick-up service from the airports to the Airlie Center and vice-versa.

Please always double check with Brooke (and/or Mel) with any questions you have regarding logistical travel information for the Science Teaching Forum. Thank you for understanding our situation in these challenging and increasingly expensive times of air travel!

**b. A welcome introduction from your Mentor/Instructors!** APS Mentor/Instructors are former Research Teachers who, having been through the fellowship program, are great sources of information and encouragement. You will meet and work with all three Mentors at the Science Teaching Forum in July, as well as have an assigned Mentor that you will work with one-on-one throughout the fellowship year. They will be introducing themselves over the next few weekly listserv updates. They have been past RTs like you, and have continued in a variety of other APS professional development opportunities throughout the years. Tonya Smith will soon be directly commenting on your online WISE assignments.

### 2008 APS Mentor/Instructors

Tonya Smith, Columbia, SC: Southeast Middle School  
Isabelle Camille, Miami, FL: Coral Reef Senior High School

Robert Manriquez, Shreveport, LA: Stanley High School  
Visit: <http://www.the-aps.org/education/2008rts/mentors.shtml>

**From Tonya (Lead Mentor/Instructor):**

"Greetings to everyone! Congratulations on your selection as an RT in this teacher fellowship program. My year-long experience as an RT in 2004 continues to be the most memorable professional development opportunity of my 22-year career as a science teacher. It provided me with a true understanding of my role as a change agent to improve the science literacy of my students, as well as my responsibility as a catalyst for change within the learning community in my school. As you complete your assignments, participate in your research host's lab, and prepare to spend a week at Airlie, remember that for many, change is a frustrating process that takes us out of our comfort zones. Keep an open mind and be truly reflective about your experiences in this program. I'm looking forward to meeting and talking with you at the Forum. It's always been a time of reflection and renewal for me. One last thing, don't forget to contact your mentor or Mel whenever you need to. That's what we're here for! See you soon!" -- Tonya

c. If not already, many of you will be starting in your Research Host's (RH) lab on June 2<sup>nd</sup> or in the weeks following! Anxious and excited?! See the Alumni RT Corner below for some words of wisdom from past RTs. Also, you'll soon be receiving instructions on composing a **1-page research description** for the kind of research you and your RH are doing.

d. Don't forget, that after a 3-week period in the lab, please complete, sign with your RH, and fax or email back a **Stipend Payment Voucher Form** if your stipend is being disbursed from the APS. Our Office Manager, Brooke Bruthers, will email you to confirm receipt of your first stipend voucher.

*QUICK LINKS*

**2008 RT website:** <http://www.the-aps.org/education/2008rts/index.shtml>

**Past RT News updates:** <http://www.the-aps.org/education/2008rts/listserv.shtml>

**Assignments for WISE, the Web-based Inquiry Science Environment:** <http://wise.berkeley.edu/>

**2. DEADLINES (in addition to your summer research experience)**

- Monday, June 9: Assignment #2: Equity & Diversity
- Friday, June 13: Book your flights by this date!
- Monday, June 16: Travel Plans for the Forum (fax: 301.634.7098 or bbruthers@the-aps.org)
- Monday, June 30: Assignment #3, Research Abstract 1-pager, Hypothesis Assignment
- Monday, July 21 - Sunday, July 27: Science Teaching Forum!

**3. ALUMNI RT CORNER**

- **On beginning your research experience from Rebecca Carney (2003 Frontiers):**

*"Two things my research host did that really helped me during my research experience was:*

- 1. Set-up specific times for me to meet with her to discuss the project I was working on.*
- 2. Expected me to present at the final lab meeting. I think that was a positive."*

- **Also, a recommendation from Aurora Merry (2004 Frontiers):**

*"Ask questions...if your mentor [Research Host] is open to having you in their lab for the summer, they will answer your questions."*

**4. RESOURCES**

**...On a Funding Agency that provided support to develop your Frontiers program**

- **The National Center for Research Resources (NCRR) at the National Institutes of Health**

[http://videocast.nih.gov/podcast/ncrr/ncrrnovpromo\\_web.mov](http://videocast.nih.gov/podcast/ncrr/ncrrnovpromo_web.mov)

A video podcast of the NCRR: "Everything you didn't know about NCRR" - An overview of one our funding agencies on for the Frontiers program through the Science Education Partnership Award (SEPA) mechanism.

### ...On Inquiry

#### - Process Oriented Guided Inquiry Learning (POGIL)

<http://www.pogil.org/>

Process Oriented Guided Inquiry Learning (POGIL) is a research based learning environment where students are actively engaged in mastering course content and in developing essential skills by working in self-managed teams on guided inquiry activities. Funded by the National Science Foundation's Course, Curriculum and Laboratory Improvement Programs.

### ...On Ants and Electronics ;-)

<http://www.slate.com/id/2191749/>

"Can Ants Eat Your Computer - Why the 'crazy raspberry' ant infests electronic devices" - From Slate's column, Explainer: Answers to your questions about the news.

## 5. OPPORTUNITIES

### ...For Teachers

#### - Pass It On! Teacher 2 Teacher *Carolina Tips*®

[http://www.carolinacurriculum.com/carolina\\_archive/tips/pass\\_it\\_on.asp](http://www.carolinacurriculum.com/carolina_archive/tips/pass_it_on.asp)

Submit your original teaching tip to share with your colleagues via the Carolina website. If selected to publish in *Carolina Tips*®, receive a gift card!

#### - NABT 2008 Professional Development Conference, Oct 15-18, 2008, Memphis, TN

Early-Bird Registration, Deadline: May 31: <http://www.nabt2008.org/>

#### - NSTA 2008 Fall Area Conferences:

- Charlotte: Oct 30 - Nov 1: <http://www.nsta.org/conferences/2008cha/>

- Portland: Nov 20 -22: <http://www.nsta.org/conferences/2008por/>

- Cincinnati: Dec 4-6: <http://www.nsta.org/conferences/2008por/>

## 6. LISTSERV INFORMATION

- We hope you will use the 2008 RT listserv to share resources and ideas and to ask questions of your fellow RTs. Please take a minute to review the information about how this listserv works at the 2008 RT website: <http://www.the-aps.org/education/2008rts/listserv.shtml>. Also listed on this page are your fellow RTs' email addresses, as well as each of these APS RT News in pdf form.

**As always, feel free to directly contact Mel ([mlimson@the-aps.org](mailto:mlimson@the-aps.org)) in the APS Education Office with questions, suggestions or concerns.**

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