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2008 RT NEWS 10 – July 3, 2008: Science Teaching Forum Preparations
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1. PREPARATIONS FOR SCIENCE TEACHING FORUM: PLEASE READ!

The APS staff and Mentor/Instructors are busy getting everything ready for the Forum...hands-on activities, teacher toolkits, and resources to help you with your upcoming Fellowship activities. And a few gifts and surprises too! Be ready for an active and intense week, but a fun one as well. **Main points are listed here; details are described below (PRINT AND SAVE THIS EMAIL!):**

- a. SHARE RESEARCH WORK**
- b. YOUR "COOKBOOK" ACTIVITIES/LESSONS**
- c. BEADS POSTER**
- d. APS THUMB DRIVE**
- e. PACK EFFICIENTLY**
- f. VIRGINIA IS HOT AND COLD**
- g. AIRLIE IS "OUT THERE!"**
- h. RETURN SHIPMENT**
- i. PERSONAL LAPTOP (OPTIONAL)**
- j. DO NOT BRING:** Your assignment notebook!

a. SHARE RESEARCH WORK: Thanks for submitting your 1-page Research Descriptions earlier this week! We're making a booklet to share your research work with everyone at the Forum. Additionally, at the Forum, you will have 2-3 minutes max to tell everyone about your research experience. You can use **ONE overhead transparency** if you want (NO PowerPoint presentations). Using a transparency is optional...giving the 3 minute presentation is NOT optional! Start practicing now with your lab mates and Research Host. Yes, practicing helps to get your presentation on the 3 minute target ;-) We'll start doing these on Monday, 7/21, afternoon.

b. "COOKBOOK" ACTIVITY/LESSON: Carefully select 2-3 cookbook labs that you've with your students, but want to adapt or transform into an activity that incorporates inquiry, diversity strategies, and an Internet component. Bring a copy of your lesson/activity plans to the Forum. Don't do anything just yet...we'll work with you on the next steps! Watch next week's update on some guidelines for what you'll be doing both at and after the Forum week.

c. BEADS POSTER: Pack your beads poster! It doesn't have to be elaborate...read the directions and get it ready now. The beads posters will be hung on the walls of our workshop room, and will be the very first Forum activity promptly at 1:00pm on Monday, 7/21...even before introductions!

d. APS THUMB DRIVE: Bring your APS thumb drive to the Forum. We'll have forms, templates, and resources, for you to take home on your thumb drive.

e. PACK EFFICIENTLY: During these challenging times of air travel, we request that you only check-in one suitcase/bag under the weight limit (typically 50 pounds, but confirm with your airline). Airline fees, if any, associated with that first bag will be reimbursed. However, to keep our program costs down, fees for any additional suitcases will be your own responsibility. Thanks for understanding our situation.

f. VIRGINIA IS HOT AND COLD: The weather in Warrenton, VA in July is typically hot and humid during the day and a bit cooler at night. However, the meeting rooms (and your lodging rooms/buildings) are very well air-conditioned and can be COLD, so pack clothing that you can layer. Be sure to look at the guide we sent on what to pack for Airlie. Also, it goes without saying that this is a professional development experience so summer professional casual wear (shorts, t-shirts, sandals) is expected, not beach or sun-bathing apparel (except for poolside, of course). Note that other professional organizations will also be on the Airlie campus during our week.

g. AIRLIE IS "OUT THERE!": Airlie is a secluded conference center in the beautiful countryside of Virginia. While Airlie is set-up like a hotel and can accommodate only basic needs (toothbrush, shampoo, band-aids, etc.), there is no convenience/drug store on campus or within quick walking distance. Please refill your prescriptions and bring any over-the-counter medications that you might want or need. If you forget something, the nearest stores are four miles away in Warrenton. Shuttle service is NOT available from Airlie to town; taxi service can be called, if necessary (at your own expense). Unfortunately, the APS is unable to reimburse you for any medications that you have to purchase on site. Do what the APS staff do when we travel: Bring a zippie bag with any over-the-counter meds you might need (e.g., Tylenol, cough drops, antihistamine, etc.).

h. RETURN SHIPMENT: At the end of the workshop week, you will have a LARGE binder, plus other books, textbooks, handouts, and lots of goodies/freebies ;-). For your convenience and economical savings from airline fees, we will be providing **only one box** of sufficient size to those who are traveling by plane. You will be able to pack and box your items, and use our FedEx ground shipping account to ship your notebook and goodies back to your home residence.

i. PERSONAL LAPTOP (*Optional, not necessary to bring!*): The APS will have Dell laptops for your use within our workshop room. The laptops will be used during lab activities, as well as for independent work. These laptops will be available (in the workshop room) during the off-hours so you can check your email and work on your lab activity development. However, you are welcome to bring your own personal laptop to the Forum if you want to work in your room or elsewhere on the Airlie campus. We will be using a wireless network set up in our workshop room, so you can access the Internet if you have a wireless modem. In addition, Internet service is available at no extra charge in your room. So, it's optional to bring a laptop or not...a personal preference. Please let Mel know if you have questions about this.

j. DO NOT BRING: Your assignment notebook! There's no need to lug your previous assignments!

More to come next week...please pay extra attention to this section on preparing for the Forum over the next 2 weeks!

2. RT PROGRAM NEWS

a. Congrats on completing all components of Assignment #3! Our Lead Mentor/Instructor Tonya and Mel are reviewing your great work and discussions. On Monday, 7/7, you'll see another listserv message from Mel to begin the discussion focused on the "Strong Inference" assignment.

b. LAST CALL: Optional Opportunity during the Forum: Any interest in observing the banding/tagging of birds (trumpeter swans) with the Environmental Studies on the Piedmont at the Airlie Center on the very early morning (5:45am) of Saturday, July 26th? We'd like to know now if there's any interest to confirm our arrangements with the researchers. Please send Brooke (bbruthers@the-aps.org) an email to indicate your interest (*either "Yes" or "No," please*).

c. "COOKBOOK" LESSON/ACTIVITY: *Important!* Last week, Mel requested you to start thinking and composing a list of about 5 "cookbook" lessons/activities that you've used with your students, but don't

seem to be inquiry-based. **This week, carefully select 2-3 of those “cookbook” lessons/activities that you would want to transform into an APS Six Star Science Lesson (*don't do it just yet!*)**, incorporating inquiry, diversity strategies, and an Internet component. Just pick those 2-3 lessons/activities...we'll work with you on the next steps. You will have lots of time at the Forum to think about and work on your activity...and lots of people with whom to brainstorm ideas. At the Forum, we will work together to help you narrow it down to a topic that you already cover or you will be covering in the future. You'll be field-testing your activity in the fall. Watch next week's update on some guidelines for what you'll be doing both at and after the Forum week. (*See this listed above in #1b: Preparations for the Science Teaching Forum*)

3. INTRODUCTIONS: PIR and APS Education Office Frontiers Team

a. PHYSIOLOGISTS-IN-RESIDENCE (PIR): Over the last two weeks, we met **Keisa Mathis** and **TanYa Gwathmey**. This week we go to Iowa City to meet our third PIR, **Tom Schmidt**:

“Congratulations and welcome 2008 Research Teachers! I am certainly looking forward to meeting each of you in a couple of weeks at the scenic and secluded campus of the Airlie Center. Many thanks to everyone at the APS who was responsible for planning this interactive Science Teaching Forum and selecting enthusiastic participants! I am currently a Professor in the Department of Molecular Physiology and Biophysics and Assistant Dean in the Carver College of Medicine at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, where we recently experienced the 500 year flood. Hopefully you have enjoyed a less stressful summer and are excited about learning some new teaching techniques that can be put into practice in your own classrooms.

Key to the success of this conference will be not only your willingness to learn how to promote more active learning by your students, but also your willingness to share your experiences and what you have learned with your fellow Research Teachers and with colleagues back at your own school. Let's all enjoy learning, making new friends, and having some fun in Virginia. Remember, the state motto is: Virginia is for Teachers (or is it Lovers)!” – **Tom Schmidt**

2008 PIRs: <http://www.the-aps.org/education/2008rts/physiologists.shtml>

b. APS Education Office Frontiers Team: You've heard from your Mentors and the PIRs, but we thought you might want to know a bit more about the folks who send all the emails, coordinate the logistics, and dutifully work behind the scenes...the APS Education staff who work on the Frontiers in Physiology program! Here's the scoop from **Brooke** and **Scarletta** this week:

Hello everyone! I've been with the APS Education Office for seven years now and wear many hats. For the Frontiers Fellowship, I am your friendly "travel and stipend guru". So if you have any questions about travel logistics (i.e. the Forum or EB 2009), expense reimbursement and/or stipend payments, please feel free to contact me (bbruthers@the-aps.org). I also coordinate the APS's Minority Programs (the Porter Fellowship Award, the NIDDK Minority Travel Fellowship Award and the K-12 Minority Outreach Fellowship), as well as the many exhibits at conferences that the Education Office Staff attend.

On a personal note, I grew up in the Washington, D.C. area and enjoy spending time with family & friends, exercising, and like to travel. My husband and I have been married for 8 years and have a wonderful daughter, Emily, who is 21 months old.

While I won't be at Airlie all week, I look forward to meeting you all during the Forum. Be prepared to learn a lot, share a lot, and eat a lot! Finally, please be sure to check your email the week of 14 July for an important pre-Forum travel information message from me. Have a Safe & Happy 4th of July! - **Brooke**

Hello everyone! I am known as the boomerang of the Education Office. I began working for Marsha Matyas in 2002 as the Office Assistant. I held that position for 2 years. I left APS and took a position as an Executive Assistant in Clarksburg, MD. Well, life is not always greener on the other side. Unhappy in my position I began looking for other options. Well I think APS missed me as much as I missed them and they had a new position as a Project Assistant. I applied and was rehired! Yeah! I am the project assistant for both Melvin Limson, K-12 coordinator, and Melinda Lowy, Higher Education coordinator.

I work on all the fellowships, grants and meetings with both of the coordinators. I am responsible for most preparatory work for meetings and proofing of the materials needed. I send out most of the correspondence needed to all fellows, students, etc. I am also the APS coordinator of the (1) International Science and Engineering Fair and (2) Local and Regional Science Fair Awards. ISEF is a High School Science Fair that gives High School students up to \$50,000 in scholarships for the work that they present. If you are interested in learning more about this program for your students you can visit their website at <http://www.sciserv.org/isef/>. This year's meeting was held in Atlanta, GA. The Local and Regional Science Fair Award is when an APS member physiologist volunteers to be a judge in their local school's science fair, and presents an award to the student with the best physiology project. If you would like more information on this program please visit our website at <http://www.the-aps.org/education/sciencefair/index.htm> .

On a personal note, I have been married for 12 years, and I have two beautiful children. They keep my busy by playing almost every sport you can think of. My daughter is currently playing a lot of lacrosse. I have a Real Estate license for the state of Maryland which I have practiced part-time since 2003. I attend Montgomery College part-time pursuing a law degree. I enjoy swimming, bowling, and watching movies with my family.

I am very excited about this years meeting at Airlie and I can't wait to meet everyone. Remember if you have questions in reference to your fellowship you can email me at swhitsett@the-aps.org. - **Scarletta**

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/>

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) in the APS Education Office with questions, suggestions or concerns.