

\*\*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 12 – July 18, 2008: Science Teaching Forum!**  
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**1. TRAVEL LOGISTICS**

All Forum attendees on this listserv should have received an email from Brooke on travel information earlier this week. Please let us know immediately if you did not! **PRINT, REVIEW, and HAND CARRY** all that information with you when you travel. **HIGHLIGHT** the emergency travel phone numbers now. Don't forget to print out your ticket itinerary from Globetrotter and/or your own flight too!

**2. CHECKLIST**

- 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!
- k. **FLIGHT PREPARATIONS**
- l. **GETTING FROM THE AIRPORT TO AIRLIE**
- m. **APS STORE**

**CHECKLIST PREPARATIONS** in detail from previous APS RT News updates:

**APS News 10 (July 3)**

<http://www.the-aps.org/education/2008rts/pdfs/APS%202008%20RT%20News.10.pdf>

**APS News 11 (July 11)**

<http://www.the-aps.org/education/2008rts/pdfs/APS%202008%20RT%20News.11.pdf>

**Quick link to Forum Logistics Webpage (updated with agenda!)**

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

**3. Marsha Matyas, APS Director of Education Programs**

Hello!

I wanted to add my welcome and a little background as you are getting ready for the Science Teaching Forum. Sorry for the long email but read on...there is an important challenge at the end. First, please, please, please read all of Brooke and Mel's emails carefully, especially those from these last weeks. They are sending important info that should help you prepare for the Forum; it's a busy week and you'll be MUCH more satisfied if you bring the right clothes, equipment, and paperwork and, of course, their reminders are based on the things folks have forgotten in previous years so they are even "data-driven"!

It's been my privilege to serve as the Director of Education Programs for the APS for 14 years. In fact, I'm the first full-time Education Officer that APS has had, so I had the opportunity to shape the overall programs. However, the APS had started and funded the summer research program for teachers three years before my arrival, recognizing the importance of building relationships between researchers and teachers. Since then, the program that you are in has received support from the National Science Foundation and three of the National Institutes of Health but APS still writes the first check out for the program each year, providing more than a million dollars over the past 17 years. The APS Council feels that this is a critical program for the future of biomedicine and physiology and is always supportive of both the teachers and researchers who participate.

My background is in cell biology and biology education. I was a biology major at Purdue University in the 70's. My primary interests have remained teacher professional development, curriculum development, and increasing diversity among scientists and engineers.

Outside of work, I like to read, write, and watch science fiction (any Stargate or Farscape fans out there?), play with my dog and two cats, help our 17-yr-old son with homework, and coordinate the children's programs for our church. Oh...and fish, camp, and scrapbook when I get a chance (too seldom!).

Before closing, allow me to commend you for participating in this fellowship program. This fellowship is about YOU as a science teacher. It's about stepping outside your comfort zone and into areas where you may feel a bit out of place, unprepared, and unsure of your success. In the lab, I'm sure you have encountered new terminology, unfamiliar equipment, and a different pace from the school day. With your colleagues online and at the upcoming Forum, you will be challenged to think about your own goals for exemplary science teaching. Again, this will not leave you standing in a comfort zone where everything fits into the test-driven curriculum with which you must deal.

Instead, the APS stands on its belief that outstanding science teachers like you will always seek ways to nudge, push, shove, sneak, and massage the test-driven, terminology-driven curriculum to include rich, student-centered learning experiences that result in both concept understanding and critical process skills. For the past 17 years, teachers have stood in the same place and, at the end of the year, almost to a person, felt they had grown tremendously as teachers. The few who did not were looking for simple solutions to the incredibly difficult problems faced by science educators. Those who have been in education for many years know that crises come and go on a regular basis but exemplary teaching has an impact on our students every single day.

Therefore, I call you to the challenge to step outside your comfort zone to feel like a student again, and to find a way to take a step toward your personal ideal of exemplary teaching despite the obstacles.

Looking forward to meeting you in person. -- Marsha

*Marsha Lakes Matyas, Ph.D.*  
*Director of Education Programs*  
*American Physiological Society*

#### **4. DEADLINES**

- **Monday, July 21 - Sunday, July 27:** Science Teaching Forum!
- Monday, August 11: STF Travel Expense Voucher and Receipts (details coming)

#### **5. 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.**