

Iowa Science Teachers Section

of the Iowa Academy of Science

October 2004

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A Message from your President: A core priority

Anyone who's lived through an Iowa winter has had a taste of hypothermia. The body responds by preserving core temperature at the expense of the peripherals. Budget cuts have cast a chill across our educational landscape such that analogous sacrifices have had to be made--cuts to peripheral programs and services while retaining our "core." I suggest to you that our ISTS conference is a "core" function for your professional health! Imagine a physician too financially strapped to attend the annual conference where new treatments and therapies are shared; or a software engineer told by her CEO that there's no money for a conference on computing trends. Before long these professionals' core competencies would be compromised. So I encourage you to rattle administrative cages, share this note with your Principal, do whatever it takes to preserve your own professional core despite the many cuts targeting the "peripherals." Come in from the cold on October 21 at the ISTS conference...warm your core, thaw your peripherals.

Jeff Weld, ISTS President '04-05

P.S. Still time to register at <http://ists.pls.uni.edu/> or at the door!

ISTS Fall 2004 Conference: Diversity in Science Education

From your Conference Chair, Ernie Schiller

As chair of the Fall Conference, I invite you to plan on attending the ISTS Fall Conference to be held Thursday October 21st. Our conference will be held at the Polk County Convention Center in Des Moines and the conference will feature a variety of science for you to engage in. There will be numerous presenters, Featured Speakers, and of course, our Noon Luncheon Speaker---all for just one charge, your registration fee.

The Noon Luncheon Speaker will be Wayne Sanderson who will address the gathering on his work at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) based in Atlanta, Georgia. His presentation will feature around the 24 years that he spent working as a research epidemiologist with the CDC.

He will give us a general overview of the broad array of work that CDC does--as he reiterates that "...there is much more to the CDC than infectious diseases." He will address the history of CDC and some case studies of some of the amazing accomplishments of this public health agency. Of course, bioterrorism is a major concern of the CDC right now and Wayne had a fairly major role in the anthrax investigations in the Washington, DC post offices. He will also address the types of training people need for careers at the CDC.

So, reserve October 21st and join the ISTS team for a day filled with science. Oh, and PS---don't forget to attend the President's Reception on Wednesday evening. At the President's Reception you will join President Jeff Weld and others as we have an official ribbon cutting and opening of the Exhibit Hall. Join us!

Ernest Schiller, Fall Conference Chair

Your ISTS Leadership Team can be found at:

<http://ists.pls.uni.edu/officers.html>

We are always looking for good people. Send an e-mail to jeff.weld@uni.edu if you wish to be more involved.

Announcements

Science Teachers Invited to Explore New American Museum of Natural History Science Bulletin Website

All teachers of science are invited to visit the new and improved Science Bulletin Website sponsored by the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), for breaking news on astrophysics, Earth sciences, and biodiversity. The bulletins present current science news stories through a host of interactive videos (5- to 7-minute video stories that follow scientists into the field), compelling photographs, graphics (using 3-D computer models), and interactive data visualizations (using NASA satellite data) that the Museum says will "bring science alive for adults and children alike." AMNH is an NSTA Institute online partner. You can visit the Science Bulletin website at <http://sciencebulletins.amnh.org/>.

Frontiers in Physiology Fellowship

Science teachers of grades 6-12 are invited to apply for this year-long immersion in the world of cutting-edge physiology research. Teamed with a local scientist, Fellows do hands-on research for seven-eight weeks during the summer as well as explore and practice teaching methods that integrate inquiry, equity and the Internet into their classrooms. The Fellowship concludes with a trip to a scientific conference in San Francisco, CA. Awardees receive a stipend of up to \$8500 over the year that includes travel and a materials mini-grant. Applications are due January 10, 2005. For more information about the Fellowship, check the American Physiological Society's web site <http://www.the-aps.org/education/frontiers/app.html> or contact Kathleen Kelly in the Education Office.

Iowa Science Teachers: NEW DNR BOOK EXPLORES IOWA'S GROUNDWATER

Iowa's Groundwater Basics - A Geological Guide to the Occurrence, Use, and Vulnerability of Iowa's Aquifers

While 80 % of Iowans rely on groundwater for their drinking water supplies, few are aware of the underground conditions that supply water to wells or affect its vulnerability to contamination. This new 83-page, full-color book published by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources takes a statewide, in-depth look at the geological basics of Iowa's groundwater resources – what they are; where they occur; how they behave; where they are vulnerable; and how they are used. The book is illustrated with numerous photographs, maps, and illustrations and is designed to meet the need for increased public understanding of the state's vital but largely unseen groundwater resources. Iowa's Groundwater Basics is free; \$2.00 shipping and handling.

To order - contact:

Iowa Geological Survey/Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources
109 Trowbridge Hall
Iowa City, IA 52242-1319
www.igsb.uiowa.edu

(319) 335-1575

Invitation to improve/contribute to this newsletter

How best can this newsletter serve you? Something to contribute for the good of the ISTS membership? Zing a line at jeff.weld@uni.edu or nweirather@central-lee.k12.ia.us .

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