



Science Teachers Association of New York State
Mohawk Valley Section

www.mvsta.org

THE VOICE

Winter 2011

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2010-2011

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CHEMISTRY

TBA

EARTH SCIENCE

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ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

TBA

PHYSICS

Dwight (Buzz) Putnam-
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RETIREES

Bernadette VanValkenburg
bernvan@twcny.rr.com

This fall was another fulfilling experience at the annual STANYS Conference in Rochester. There were a number of first timers at the conference and they were privileged to experience one of the best Fellows Speakers in years. *A Visit with Madam Curie presented by Susan Marie Frontczak* (www.storysthsmith.org), told the story of Marie Curie, a motherless child raised by her father in occupied Poland and Marie's years in Paris as a college student, researcher, wife and mother. This remarkable presentation was sponsored by Eduware. As I listened to Susan's storytelling speak, I like many others in the audience felt as though we were in Marie's study listening to her talk about her life. I hope that everyone will have the opportunity to experience this kind of storytelling. The Night at the Museum I highly recommend! It was an evening to see old friends, meet new colleagues and at the same time enjoy the museum exhibits and planetarium. I emphatically encourage you join us next year in **Rochester from Nov. 6-8, 2011**, to experience STANYS for yourself. We will be happy to assist you with the registration process and guide you in your first visit to the conference.

At this time I would like to thank our Subject Area Representatives who have remained in their present positions and welcome our new members (who will introduce themselves in this newsletter). Many thanks to long-time member, Retiree SAR and Fellow, Bob Bond, for his many active years in STANYS with hopes that he will remain active on the Board in his continued retirement years. Bernadette VanValkenburg has retired from teaching at VVS and as Chemistry SAR, but has agreed to fill the position of Retirees on the Board. Thank you to Eileen Schreppel (Elementary), Penny Mann (Physics), Jud Spanneut (Earth Science), and Dr. Robert Jubenville (College), for their time spent as SAR's and whose careers and family needs deserve more of their attention at this time.

I am pleased to announce the appointments of Duane Willsey from Madison (Elementary), Cinnamon Marchione from Adirondack (Intermediate), Jennifer Herzog from Herkimer County Community College (College), and Buzz Putnam from Whitesboro (Physics) to fill the vacant SAR positions. We are still looking for Environmental and Chemistry SARs and hope you may consider joining us this year. Without teacher centers, I feel it is more important than ever that the SARs persevere in the all important task of science networking.

The second annual **SATURDAY MORNING SCIENCE** will be held on **Saturday, April 9 at Mohawk Valley Community College from 8:30am to 12:30pm**. Those in attendance will be delighted with our presenters this year and will receive four hours of professional development.

Lee Kowalsky, Chairperson/Director

lkowalsky@roadrunner.com



BIOLOGY

Sue Schafer, SAR

Proctor High School, Utica, NY

sschafer@uticaschools.org

The first one is www.pbs.org/wgbh/aso/tryit/dna#, titled *DNA workshop* which simulates DNA replication and protein synthesis, it also has biographies on Francis Crick, James Watson and Rosalind Franklin. The second is www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/sheppard/analyze.html which is a fun website where students can solve a mystery by analyzing DNA and fingerprints. The third is www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/baby/divide.html a great overview on mitosis and meiosis which students can use as independent review. If you have any ideas, websites or labs to share please e-mail me at sschafer@uticaschools.org and we could use the MVSTA newsletter to pass these along to colleagues.



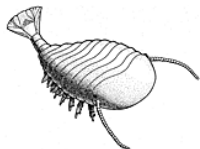
CHEMISTRY

Bernadette VanValkenburg

Vernon-Verona-Sherrill High School, Vernon, NY

bernvane@twcny.rr.com

“After several years as the Chemistry SAR for MVSTA, I will be retiring from teaching on April 1st. Since I want to remain active in STANYS, I agreed to become the Retiree SAR for Mohawk Valley Section. I look forward to the Fall Conference and gathering information that I can share with retired science teachers in our area.”



EARTH SCIENCE

Paul Perry, SAR

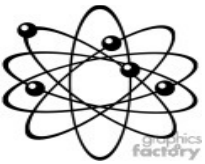
Vernon-Verona-Sherrill High School, Vernon, NY

PPerry@VVSschools.org

Hello Earthies -

As of January 1st I am your new Earth Science SAR. For those of you who do not know me, I am Paul Perry and I currently teach Earth Science (and some biology) at Vernon-Verona-Sherrill High School. We have a few new things coming up on the horizon. First: network meetings will once again run, but we will be doing them a little differently. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 23rd from 4:00 – 6:00 at the VVS High School Media Center and is titled “Make your Earth Science Students Excel”. The network meeting is being sponsored by the Model Schools Consortium (the educational/ professional development division of the RIC), which is why the meeting has a title and a theme. You can sign up on the Model Schools website -<http://www.modelschools.org/msponline/calendar/?pg=1> and then find the appropriate date, click on the workshop or by emailing me (PPerry@VVSschools.org) and I will sign you up. All attendees will receive a certificate of participation for two Professional Development hours.

Along the Professional Development lines, MVSTA will be co-sponsoring with the Southern section and Hamilton College a workshop highlighting New York's place in the history of geology. This workshop will be on Saturday, February 26th from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. Some of you have driven down to the Cortland area in previous years to attend Tim Conner's workshops, this year he is bringing the workshop to us!! Tim puts an excellent, productive day and I hope to see many people from our local section and local area there. Please spread the word to our colleagues who teach all science classes **k-12** and **anyone** teaching in your district who would be interested in **history of New York State**. See the flier in the newsletter for further details and registration information.



PHYSICS
Buzz Putnam, SAR
Whitesboro High School, Whitesboro, NY
dputna@wboro.org

As your new Physics SAR for the MVSTA, I want to offer Physics teachers a forum to discuss, share and create exciting new labs, demonstrations, teaching techniques and classroom activities that will motivate our students through our Physics teaching. I have taught Physics at Whitesboro for the past 26 years, also serving as their 6th-12th grade Science Department Chairman. This past year, I developed and taught an Introduction to Nanotechnology course which has been one of the biggest educational challenges of my career. Over the years, I have been part of Cornell's CIPT Lab Development team, a member of the Cornell Physics teacher contingent, traveling to Arecibo, Puerto Rico and meeting with Puerto Rican science teachers, presented at various science conferences (NJSC, CAST [Texas], NSTA, STANYS) and last summer as an Opening Day speaker for the New Orleans schools. When I am not teaching, I serve as the Public Address Announcer and Play-by-Play Announcer for EZStream Internet Video Production for Whitesboro sports as well as an IAABO Certified Basketball Official and a MVBUA Certified Baseball Umpire. Having met with numerous science teachers around the country, I am convinced that our cadre of Physics teachers here in the Mohawk Valley are second to none. When I began Physics teaching in the 1980's, I had a great mentor who always showed me that Physics teaching was an art; that anyone can do derivations or solve problems on the blackboard, but to "demonstrate" to students the Physics concepts was the real secret to student learning. We CAN teach Projectile Motion so that lower achieving students CAN understand, we CAN perform a Hooke's Law Lab differently, and we CAN excite our students about interpreting graphs. Ideas like these are what excites me as your new Physics SAR; to offer all of us ways to enhance our Physics classrooms in the Mohawk Valley. I look forward to working with all of you in the next year. Feel free anytime to contact me through my email at dputna@wboro.org for any suggestions you might have for upcoming meetings!

Fizziks iz Phun!

Cell Phone → 315-761-5062



INTERMEDIATE
Cinnamon Marchione, SAR
Adirondack Central School, Boonville, NY
cmarchione@adirondackcsd.org

Hello Mohawk Valley!

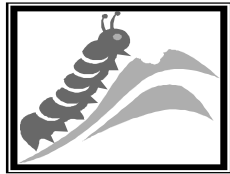
I would like to spend a little time introducing myself. My name is Cinnamon Marchione and I am an eighth grade science teacher at Adirondack Central School in Boonville. Over the last 11 years, I have had the opportunity to teach life science, physical science, AIS and Living Environment. For eight years, I taught 8th grade life science and 8th grade advance science (Living Environment). I am also the ACS 6th-12th grade science department chair.

I am hoping this new position will open up great opportunities and exciting conversation amongst our colleagues. I would like to know what other intermediate teachers would like to discuss and/or have a workshop about. For example, do you need lab ideas, prioritization of the curriculum, integrating the new literacy standards, or designing a project or game for your students?

I would also like to talk to other department chairs. What non-regents classes does your school offer? Do you offer AP, college classes or both choices?

Let's start talking and sharing

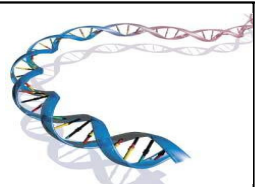
Have a great winter!



ELEMENTARY
Duane Willsey, SAR
Madison Central School District, Madison, NY
dwillsey@madisoncentralny.org

Hello!

My name is Duane Willsey and I am the new Elementary SAR. I would like to start by wishing Pat Zuck good luck in her retirement and thank her for a job well done. Next, I should probably tell you a bit about myself. I am a 6th grade teacher at the Madison Central School District, where I have been teaching science for the last 6 years, before that I taught 8th grade Life Science for 1 year in another district. Prior to public school teaching, I worked for 20 years in the Air Force, mostly in and around the flying community, and then for three years as a manager in the corporate world. Even in those jobs, teaching or training as they called it, was a big part of who I was. So, as the new guy, I come hopefully with a slightly different perspective. In that vein, I will be leading a workshop at our next Saturday Morning Science on human simulations I call Sim Science. It will be a chance for you to try something interactive, creative, somewhat “outside the box”, and of course FUN! If you already use students as “parts” or “actors” in drama style demonstrations, great; if not, then perhaps this might be something to add to your repertoire. In either case, I look forward to meeting you and sharing lots of cool science ideas.



COLLEGE
Dr. Jennifer Herzog, SAR
Herkimer County Community College, Herkimer, NY
herzogja@herkimer.edu

I am an Assistant Professor of Biology at Herkimer County Community College, where I have taught for nearly 10 years. I received my M.S. and M.Phil. degrees at the Yale University School of Medicine, where I studied the pathogenesis of Kaposi's Sarcoma Herpesvirus (KSHV). I currently teach Microbiology and Non-majors General Biology at HCCC, and I also serve as an Adjunct Professor of Biology teaching Human Genetics in the RN to BS program at Utica College.

I have a strong interest in developing novel teaching strategies for science education and have developed programs for K-career microbiology education and outreach. Distance learning has afforded me the opportunity to develop many innovative ways to convey biological concepts and techniques online as well. I hope that my new role in the STANYS organization will allow me to enhance the connection between area college faculty, students and teachers in the school systems of the Mohawk Valley.

Professionally in my field, I have been an active member of the American Society for Microbiology for nearly 20 years, most recently serving at the Chair of the ASM Conference for Undergraduate Education. In addition, I currently author the “Journal Watch” section of the ASM's *Journal of Microbiology and Biology Education*. I have also worked for McGraw-Hill Publishers for over 5 years, and currently I serve as the digital author on two of the company's top selling microbiology textbooks.