



2014 Annual Conference Report

The Pennsylvania Earth Science Teachers Association (PAESTA) held its third annual conference October 4, 2014, at The Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel in State College, Pennsylvania. The theme of the conference was ***Earth's Connected Systems***. This theme was chosen to connect with the American Geosciences Institute (AGI)'s Earth Science Week theme for the year. The conference was organized by the PAESTA Executive and Teacher Advisory Committees, and conference registration was free. A Friday evening pre-conference session at the Davy Lab Observatory was cancelled due to inclement weather.

The conference began at 9AM the morning of Saturday, October 4. After some welcome notes by the PAESTA President Laura Guertin, the PAESTA Award for Teaching Excellence was presented to Gerard Tyson, a science teacher at Northwest Middle School in Reading. The next item on the conference agenda was the morning conference keynote, given by Kevin Furlong, Professor of Geoscience at The Pennsylvania State University. His keynote was titled "Making a Disaster of Earth Science Education."

Teachers were able to choose from attending four one-hour sessions in the morning, and then attended a lunchtime keynote by Laura Guertin titled "Being a Teacher at Sea for a hydrographic survey aboard the NOAA ship Thomas Jefferson." The afternoon had two half-hour blocks with three presentations each to choose from, as well as the option to attend an ice core laboratory located at The Pennsylvania State University campus. The conference ended with a fieldtrip to Penn's Caves.

Forty-three people attended the conference, supported by two staff members handling registration and providing conference participants with IT support during the sessions.

Conference website: <http://www.paesta.psu.edu/paesta-conference>

The full conference schedule, with session descriptions and supporting files, are available at: <http://www.paesta.psu.edu/paesta-conference-2014-schedule> and <http://www.paesta.psu.edu/paesta-conference-2014-presentations>

Saturday, October 4, 2014

	SCIENCE PRESENTATIONS and CLASSROOM PRACTICES	SCIENCE & PEDAGOGY	SCIENCE PRESENTATIONS and CLASSROOM PRACTICES	SCIENCE & PEDAGOGY
Time \ Room	ROOM 204	ROOM 205	ROOM 206	ROOM 207
9:00 - 9:30 AM	Welcome by PAESTA President Laura Guertin, Teacher Award Presentation - Room 208			
9:30 - 10:30 AM	Morning Keynote - Room 208 Making a Disaster of Earth Science Education - Dr Kevin Furlong			
10:30 - 10:45 AM	Break			
10:45 - 11:45 AM	Forensic Geology - Maureen Feineman	Maury Project - Patti Burks	A Role for the Classroom Teacher: Fostering Teacher Leadership in Math and Science - Teresa Lewis-King and Rebecca Newshaffer	STEM, the PA Core for ELA, and You - Heather Spotts
Noon - 1:00 PM	Lunchtime Keynote - Room 208 Being a Teacher at Sea for a hydrographic survey aboard the NOAA ship Thomas Jefferson The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Teacher at Sea (TAS) Program provides K-16 teachers hands-on, real-world research experience working at sea with NOAA scientists, thereby giving unique insight into current oceanic and atmospheric research. From September 1-20, PAESTA President Laura Guertin served as a TAS on the NOAA research vessel Thomas Jefferson. Hear about her recent adventures on this hydrographic survey, as well as other NOAA opportunities available to teachers.			
1:00 - 2:00 PM	Teaching Sky Motions and the Celestial Sphere - Christopher Palma	Earth, Mars and the MAVEN Connection - Theresa Rabogliatti	The Rock Cycle - Tanya Furman	Ice Core Lab Round-Robin Tours
2:00 - 2:15 PM	Break			
2:15 - 2:45 PM	Notebooking with Claims, Evidence, and Reasoning - Judy Treichler	Recycling Made Easy - Eilisha Joy Bryson	Why is it Cooler at the Beach Than in the City? - Kathy Tait	
2:45 - 3:00 PM	Closing Session - Room 208			
3:00 - 5:00 PM	Field Trip - Penn's Cave Tour			

Report submitted by Laura Guertin