

Austin Peay State University

2004-05 Events for Middle and High School Science Teachers

Area science teachers,

The science departments at Austin Peay State University are committed to the growth of teaching and "doing" of science across the Mid-state. To this end we are hosting several events designed to enhance your teaching and your ability to supervise students in science research. I would encourage each of you to take advantage of these opportunities.

My personal goal as director of the MTSEF is to see the involvement of more high schools and middle schools. I believe our first year hosting the fair was a success and is something on which we can build. Please consider involving your students in research and participating in our fair. The research project is the unit of work in science and is a wonderful predictor of the likelihood of a student having a successful career in science.

Also not to be overlooked are the monetary awards, scholarships, and recognition that comes from participation in the MTSEF as well as other contests such as the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium, the Junior Academy of Science and our own APSU High School Research Day.

To get to APSU for the advertised events from the Nashville area just take I-24 and get off at Exit 4. Turn south and travel on Wilma Rudolph Blvd. past the shopping mall for some 5 miles (this road eventually becomes College Street) until you come to the APSU campus starting at 8th Street. Turn right onto 8th and immediately park in the gravel lot. The Sundquist Science Complex is right across the street.

Come and visit us. As the Motel 6 announcer says, "We'll leave the light on for you".

Ron Robertson, Director of MTSEF

Are You "Mad" about Science?

Join us for a meeting of the Nashville Section of the American Chemical Society geared specifically toward middle and high school teachers on **Thursday, Sept. 16**. Special National Chemistry Week Packets will be distributed to every teacher attending and door prizes will be up for grabs! Applications for the ACS Teacher of the Year Award and information about the upcoming TSTA conference will also be available. A reception with light refreshments will begin at **5:30 pm** at the Sundquist Science Complex and a talk on the nature and history of mercury poisoning will begin at **7:00 p.m.** in room E106. Feel free to bring your students!

Speaker: Dr. James F. O'Brien
Southwest Missouri State University

Talk: "Famous Mad Hatters"

The origin of the phrase "mad as a hatter" is due to the incidence of odd behavior on the part of workers in the early felt hat industry. Their odd behavior, or "madness", was the result of mercury poisoning contracted on the job. This presentation will discuss the recent mercury analyses done on the hair of Isaac Newton; the deterioration of the great mind of Michael Faraday; the bizarre behavior of Boston Corbett, the man who shot John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of Abraham Lincoln; and the possibility that mercury poisoning affected the behavior of other famous people such as King Charles II of England, the author William Makepeace Thackeray, and a number of famous artists such as Rubens, Renoir, Dufy, and Klee. "Mad" women in history have been more difficult to locate. One eminent female whose health was affected by chemical exposure was Clare Boothe Luce. Her health problems while serving as U.S. ambassador to Italy in the 1950s will be discussed.

Science Fair

Resources, Helps, and the 53rd Middle Tennessee Science & Engineering Fair

Are you clueless for a good project idea? Do SRC and IRB sound like government agencies? Is experimental design more mysterious than the Big Bang theory? Don't know how to present your cure for cancer?

Then come to the. . . .

MTSEF Training and Information Workshop

Time: Saturday, Sept. 25th from 9 am to 1 pm

Place: Sundquist Science Building on the Austin Peay State University campus

Events:

- 9:00 Group meeting in E106B
- Sessions on project design, project presentation, rule changes, SRC and IRB paperwork, statistics in science, and projects by scientific discipline.
- "Hands-on" activities and more.
- Lunch at 11:30 am.

Bring your students!

Each session is 30 minutes, with 15 minutes for individual questions and movement to the next session. The sessions offered and the overall format will be very similar to last year. More information about individual sessions will be posted soon on our website: www.apsu.edu/mtsef.

Another opportunity to learn about science project design and presentation will be on Saturday, Oct. 9 at the Adventure Science Center. A group in Nashville is sponsoring this and we will have MTSEF info there. This event at the museum is in conjunction with "Chemistry Day", sponsored by the Nashville Section of the American Chemical Society. More details will be posted on the web as I receive them.

53rd Middle Tennessee Science and Engineering Fair

Austin Peay State University
March 17-19, 2005

Changes in a nutshell:

1. There will be limitations on the number of middle school projects from individual schools. No limitations on high school entries.
2. The SRC will meet monthly and review project applications, not continuously. Submission dates of SRC paperwork for these monthly meetings will be: Sept. 17, Oct. 8, Nov. 5, Dec. 10, Jan. 7.
3. The IRB will continue to accept paperwork for human subjects projects on a continuous basis.
4. Final deadline for all projects requiring pre-approval – Jan. 7.

Stay tuned to the web site (www.apsu.edu/mtsef) for more details. Also make use of our public Discussion Board (<http://pauling.apsu.edu/discus>) to ask questions and share ideas with other teachers.

There will be another mailing in the fall.

Communication

Address: MTSEF
Ron Robertson, Dept. of Chemistry
Austin Peay State University
P.O. Box 4547
Clarksville, TN 37044

Phone: (931) 221-7292

E-mail: mtsef@apsu.edu

Web: www.apsu.edu/mtsef

Discussion Board: MTSEF Board at pauling.apsu.edu