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OH - William Slattery  
WI - **Vacant**

## UPCOMING EVENTS!

### **GSA North-Central Section** **48th Annual Meeting** **Lincoln, Nebraska** **24 & 25 April 2014**

The Central NAGT section will pay the cost of the section NAGT business luncheon to K-14 professionals (members and non-members) who a) cannot afford the cost themselves, and b) make a presentation on any topic at the NC GSA conference that year. **Application forms are at the end of this newsletter.**

### **Events sponsored by** **NAGT Central Section**

### Theme Sessions:

**Thursday, April 24, 8:25am-12pm**  
**T16. Geoscience Education for K-16: Novel Approaches and Current Research -** Katie Lewandowski, Eastern Illinois University ([kjlewandowski@eiu.edu](mailto:kjlewandowski@eiu.edu)) and Mindi Searls, University of Nebraska-Lincoln ([msearls2@unl.edu](mailto:msearls2@unl.edu))

We encourage contributions that highlight innovative instructional strategies in the classroom, lab and field. We also welcome abstracts from researchers offering insights into cognition and processing of earth science information that will help us to teach more effectively.

### Central Section NAGT Luncheon:

**On Thursday, April 24, 12-1:30 pm at The Green Gateau, 330 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St., Lincoln, NE.** We've reserved a private dining room at this restaurant, which is about 3 blocks from The Cornhusker Hotel, where the conference is being held. Please e-mail Katie Lewandowski ([kjlewandowski@eiu.edu](mailto:kjlewandowski@eiu.edu)) if you plan on attending, so accurate numbers can be communicated to the restaurant a few days before.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As educators, we are constantly looking for the best ways to impart our knowledge onto our students. Over the years, multitudes of pedagogies have been conceived and implemented. Some continue on, some are discarded as times change or education focus has changed. The past 30 years has seen tremendous, even mind boggling, leaps in computers and computer power. Naturally the education community has incorporated this into its regime. What I want to talk about briefly is what I feel is an untapped resource that is relatable to our current and next generation of students. Teaching using consoles such as Xbox 360 and the Playstation 3.



Games like Call of Duty and other first person shooters place the player into computer generated worlds that they can interact with and manipulate. The processor and graphics of these machines can now produce photo realistic images and scenes. The technology and programs to design these worlds are either low cost or even free. The programs have the ability to take Digital Elevation Maps and convert those images into the actual terrain. You can then model on top of that terrain anything you want. For example, I am currently recreating Yellowstone National Park as an interactive world. I can put in all the geology and give the player tools to look at the rocks as if they were really there. This technology has the ability to bring far off or most likely unattainable places to any location in the world. So inner city schools that may not have the funds to take students on fieldtrips could bring the fieldtrips to the students.

The learning curve on the programs is rather high but not impossible to master relatively quickly. Plus it can combine the sciences with computers and the arts to render these worlds. So I ask my fellow science educators, what do you think? I believe this would be a highly successful venture for all of us to consider.

– Cullen Erbacher

### **Mastodont Dig in Your Classroom!**

Need a new idea for your geology lab or class? Want to have your students do real science? Then you need to take advantage of the Aurora Mastodont Project \* Matrix Analysis Project. We will send to you enough sample free (you pay postage when you return it) to have your entire class process screenwash from the 2004 Mastodont dig. After sorting through the screenwash additional paleoenvironmental interpretations can be included as part of the lab. For more information, contact David Voorhees, [dvoorhees@waubonsee.edu](mailto:dvoorhees@waubonsee.edu) or go to <http://www.waubonsee.edu/faculty/dvoorhees/MastodontMatrix/index.html>



### **Central Section OEST Awardee for 2013! Mary Lestina from City High School, Iowa City**

Mary Lestina is in her twelfth year of teaching at City High School in Iowa City, Iowa. She currently teaches Ecology, Physical Geology, and Weather and Climate trimester electives for juniors and seniors, senior level Physics, and freshmen level Foundations of Science III. Mary graduated from the University of Northern Iowa with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in 2000, majoring in All Sciences and Earth Science Education with a minor in Meteorology. She earned her Master's of Science Education Degree from the University of Iowa in 2005 with an emphasis in Earth Science. In 2010, she was awarded the Excellence in Science Teaching Award from the Iowa Academy of Sciences.

As an active member of the Science Department, Mary has worked on curriculum review and standards alignment projects and was part of a team of teachers recognizing the need to extend the Earth Science offerings through Earth Science Trimester Electives. She has worked with science and

special education teachers incorporating reading strategies, differentiated learning, and understanding by design strategies into her classroom giving students the best experiences possible. Mary is an active member of the National Science Teachers' Association and the Iowa Academy of Sciences (IAS), presented at several national and local science teacher conferences, and has served as IAS Membership Committee Chair and a member of the IAS Recognition Committee.

Mary has sponsored the Science Club since 2000, and in the past has sponsored the Environmental, Rocket, and Global Perspectives Clubs at City High School. Mary's teaching philosophy is to encourage all students to connect their lives to their education. Her positive attitude, high expectations of every learner, willingness to improve, and a value of every student's unique abilities makes learning more meaningful for students within her classroom.

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### **Outstanding Earth Science Teacher (OEST) Award – Call for Nominations**

Nominations for the OEST award are being accepted for 2014. Please take the time to nominate a deserving teacher in your state or encourage them to nominate themselves. If you have any questions or need additional information, contact Katie Lewandowski ([kjlewandowski@eu.edu](mailto:kjlewandowski@eu.edu)). All nominations must be submitted online at the NAGT website, <http://nagt.org/nagt/programs/oest.html>. The deadline for 2014 OEST Award is May 15<sup>th</sup>.

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### **Future Field Opportunities for Earth Science Teachers from GSA**

When was the last time you were in the field studying geology? Last summer? 5 years ago? Never? The Geological Society of America has several opportunities for Earth Science teachers to study geology in the field this summer. These trips will help you to use your observations and new-found knowledge so you can effectively communicate geologic concepts with our peers, students, teachers and the general public.

Trips for this summer include:

#### **Explore Australia's Geology (June 15- July 6, 2014)**

This is an amazing GeoVenture experience to get a 12 day slice of the very best geosciences of Australia. Registration is due on April 30, 2014.

#### **Illinois Basin Field Camp (June 15-19, 2014)**

Join GSA on this 4-day field camp to discover the hidden geological gems of the Illinois Basin in La Salle County. Registration is due on January 10, 2014.

#### **Rocky Mountain Field Camp (June 21-27, 2014)**

This five-day field camp will take you around Central Colorado and will allow you to investigate some of the amazing geology that Colorado has to offer. Registration is due on January 10, 2014.

### **Mammoth Cave Field Camp (July 14-19, 2014)**

This field camp will focus on geology, karst, groundwater, biology, ecology, environmental science and a bit of archeology. Come explore the world's longest cave with GSA! Registration is due on February 10, 2014

### **Explore Hawaiian Volcanoes (Aug. 6-13, 2014)**

This seven-day field trip on the Big Island of Hawaii will introduce you to plate tectonics, hot spot volcanism and the geologic features and hazards associated with living on an active volcano.

Registration is due on May 15, 2014.

Visit [www.geoventures.org](http://www.geoventures.org) to view the itineraries.

Contact Davida Buehler at

[dbuehler@geosociety.org](mailto:dbuehler@geosociety.org) if you have questions.

*"Because the best geologists have seen the most rocks!"*

## **NAGT: New Memberships or Renewals**

New or renewing members may find the application form at: <http://nagt.org/nagt/membership/index.html>

## **Central Section NAGT: Call for Service**

Please consider serving as an officer or state representative. We need a 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President to serve beginning this spring. Second VP becomes 1<sup>st</sup> VP the next year and then President in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year. We need more people involved. In addition, if you would be interested in taking over the responsibilities of either OEST Award Chair or Secretary (3 year term), please let me know ([kilewandowski@eiu.edu](mailto:kilewandowski@eiu.edu)). I would be happy to discuss the responsibilities, etc. with anyone interested.

## **ANNOUNCING Dorothy LaLonde Stout NAGT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS**



In honor of Dottie Stout's outstanding work and lifelong dedication to Earth science Education, NAGT will award three grants in support of the following activities:

- Participation in Earth science classes or workshops
- Attendance at professional scientific or science education meetings
- Participation in Earth science field trips
- Purchase of Earth science materials for classroom use

**One grant of \$500 will be awarded to a Community College Faculty**

**One grant of \$500 will be awarded to a Community College Student**

**One grant of \$500 will be awarded to a K-12 Educator**

**Eligibility:** Community College Faculty and K-12 teachers who teach one or more Earth science courses and Community College students actively pursuing a career in the Earth sciences are encouraged to apply for these awards.

**Application Process:** Interested applicants are asked to submit a 1-2 page proposal describing how the grant will be used to support their professional growth in, or classroom teaching of Earth science. The application may be found at <http://nagt.org/nagt/programs/stout.html>.

**Applications must be received by April 1** with awards being made by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

# Central Section NAGT Business Meeting Fee Application

(available to K-14 professionals)



The North-Central NAGT section may pay the cost of the section NAGT business luncheon to K-14 professionals (NAGT members and non-members) who

- a) cannot afford the cost themselves, and
- b) make a presentation on any topic at the NC GSA conference that year.

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Check one: ☐ College Faculty at \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Teacher at \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Other at \_\_\_\_\_

Date of North-Central GSA meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of presentation at meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of presentation: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

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