

The PA-POST

Volume 1

Pennsylvania Technology Student Association

Fall 2008

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Always wanted to see your name in print?
Have an interesting TSA story?
Write for the *Post!*
We are always looking for PA-TSA members to submit articles. Write about anything TSA or technology



Message from the President

Hey Pennsylvania TSA! A new year has already begun, a new year filled with new opportunities and experiences just waiting to happen. TSA will be going through some changes this year, with the goal to make PATSA even better than before. The Pennsylvania TSA website is undergoing some changes to make information more accessible and we've added new competitive events and a special award for chapters.

I would like to encourage you to take advantage of the new opportunities that are being presented to you this year. Try one or a few of the new competitive events or one that you have never done before. More information about the new events can be found in this issue of the PA-POST and in your competitive events guides, which your advisor will receive when they affiliate with national TSA.

This year we have made it a goal to broaden the channels of communication throughout the state, and to keep you informed. The state officers are working hard with the Board of Directors to make sure that we are here for you, and that you're receiving the right information. I would like to encourage all of you to subscribe to the new PATSA website list-serv. This will send you an email every two weeks with updates about the PATSA web page. The state officers will frequently be updating the website by uploading the PA POST, and we hope to utilize communication channels like Facebook to help keep everyone up-to-date on what's happening in TSA. Most importantly, I highly encourage you to download and read the PA POST. This newsletter has important information about events such as Iron Man and Got Game, and will keep you informed on the specifics about our plans for states.

On that note, I want to wish you all the best of luck this year. The coming year will be filled with new experiences and opportunities, and I hope all of you will make friends and memories that will last a lifetime.

Chloe Alpert
2008-2009 State President



Biomedical Essay Information

By: Rachel Bradley

Each year the *Pennsylvania Society for Biomedical Research* sponsors a Biomedical Research event to encourage exploration in biomedical careers. The essay must be on an acceptable career for the year and should follow all regulations set forth by the judges. The essay must be turned in two to four weeks before your regional conference. Check with your regional coordinator or advisor for your conference deadline. The essays aren't very long, a maximum of three pages and can really be rewarding. Each regional winner will receive \$100. The top two essays, one middle school and one high school in the state each receive \$250. All information on the Biomedical Research Essay and a list of acceptable careers can be found online or from one of your state officers.

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PA-TSA Prevails at National Conference

By Collin Straka, State Historian

Late in June, the Technology Student Association met in Orlando, Florida for the 30th Annual TSA Conference. PA TSA was one of the largest delegations represented there, and we did spectacularly.

On the High School side, a PA team won first place in Animatronics, Architectural Model, Computer Aided Design Animation-Architectural, Flight Endurance, Technology Challenge, and Video Game Design. There was at least one PA Finalist in all but 3 events. The middle school's finished first place in Cyberspace Pursuit, and Environmental Challenge. Pennsylvania middle schools also got in the top 3 for 9 different events.

Pennsylvania performed spectacularly this year, and it promises to be another great year for TSA at the 31st National conference.

Congratulations to all!



Rosen Shingle Creek Resort



Seven Springs Resort

Seven Springs Resort – Still the best around!

Lauren Lapinski, PA-TSA State Conference Co-Coordinator

In the past few years, the membership of PA-TSA has grown substantially. For the State Conference Planning Team, this growth poses new problems and each year we address these challenges in hopes of providing you with the best State Conference possible. We begin by annually re-evaluating our current conference facility, Seven Springs Resort. This past spring, members of the Planning Team researched and visited several alternative locations for the conference. These sites, such as the Hershey Lodge/Convention Center and the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, offered many alluring features such as location, amenities, and sight-seeing opportunities. When we compared the benefits of each facility with Seven Springs, as well as compared the costs for each facility, we found that Seven Springs is still the best around for our organization's needs. Moving to a new facility would not only mean dealing with the expected problems of transition, it would also mean a significant cost increase for students to attend the State Conference.

Seven Springs Resort provides us with enough hotel rooms for our students, advisors, judges, and guests and has more than ample meeting room space, necessary for all our competitive events. Additionally, the Resort offers many things for students to do while not in competition, such as visiting the arcade, bowling a few frames, playing a round a mini-golf, taking a swim in the pool, or grabbing pizza or ice cream with friends. When we look at the big picture, the advantages to staying at Seven Springs far outweigh the disadvantages.

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Advice for New Chapters and New Members

By: Caitlyn Riehl

To all of the new chapters or members out there, welcome to PA-TSA! You have undoubtedly joined one of the most prestigious technology organizations in the world. That being said, there are many things to take in and understand. To make things simple, there are 3 R's to remember (so cliché, I know.)

R #1: Registration

Registration is not as complicated as it may seem, but there are few steps you must take in order to keep it simple. Chapters must initially register at the state and national level to become affiliated. This makes you an official chapter or member. After that, you must remember to register for conferences. For each conference, every member needs to be registered and signed up for all of his or her events. If this step is not completed, you may compete at Regionals as guests, but you will not be allowed to move on from there.

R #2: Rules and Regulations

After your chapter is properly registered, you will be receiving materials, including an event CD. Before you open this up, brace yourself. It's going to seem like a LOT of rules and specifications, but it truly is not. Each event has its own specific guidelines to follow for size, weight, and other specifics. As long as these regulations are followed properly, you will do well. Continue to check these guidelines as you are working on your project, in order to avoid disqualification.

R #3: Regionals

Now that you have properly registered your chapter for not only membership, but for the regional conference as well, and have created excellent projects, you are now ready to compete. It is finally time for the Regional Conferences. There is only one rule for Regionals: Have fun and do your best!

To everyone, new chapters and old chapters alike, best of luck this year in TSA! If you have any questions, please visit the website, www.patsa.org, or feel free to email the State Officer Team at sot@patsa.org. Hope to see you at Seven Springs!

Dropped Event and New Events for 2008-2009

By: Rachel Bradley

As many seasoned TSA members know, the rulebook for competitive events changes every two years. This year, not only have some rules been updated, but there have been a few events added, and a few events dropped. First of all, the dropped events have been limited mainly to a select few PA-only competitions. These include *PA- Safety Illustration Hand Drawn* and *PA Digital Video* (removed from High School but not Middle School). If you are a die-hard competitor in *PA Digital Video*, never fear, this event is being replaced by a similar new event called *On-Demand Video* at the National level. This upcoming year will also be the last year for *PA Black and White Photography* at the Middle School level. The annual Biomedical Essay has also been split into two groups; one for High School kids and one for Middle School kids. There are several new events joining PA State competition this year. The first is *Debating Technological Issues*.

In this event, teams will debate against other school's teams, choosing either a pro or con side to a given technology topic. In *Engineering Design*, groups will use models/prototypes with a notebook to explain a possible solution to a design problem. With the new event, *Fashion Design*, participants (groups of two to four) will create garment designs based off the current year's theme. Semifinalists will then present their designs on a TSA runway. With *Future Technology Teacher*, students will research three universities that offer technology education as a major. Each participant will then write a simulated college essay and develop and present a lesson plan. Another new event is *Music Production*, in which groups will write and create a musical number designed to be played during the opening or closing ceremonies at the conference(s). If you would like any more information on any of the new events, check out the National TSA webpage at www.tsaweb.org.

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TSA Scholarship Opportunities **By: Jennifer Arnold PATSA Secretary**

In addition to providing high school students the unique opportunity to compete and connect with other academically-gifted students, PA-TSA allows its participants to be eligible for several college scholarships. While the details concerning the available scholarships for TSA members have been posted on the PA-TSA website (www.patsa.org), the overall participation for every scholarship has fallen below expectations within the previous years. As a result, the information on the college scholarships and process of application is described below for active, college-bound PA-TSA members who are interested in applying for the scholarship within the near future.

The Scholarship for Prospective Technology Education Teachers is one of the better-known scholarships available in TSA. The recipient is presented with the award during the Banquet and Awards Ceremony of the PA-TSA State Leadership Conference each year. As its name implies, this scholarship is exclusively available to TSA members who are looking to continue their education to become future technology education teachers. The applicants must be high school seniors or graduates who have already been accepted into an undergraduate technology education program for college. The recipient of this scholarship will receive a total amount of \$1500 for the scholarship, which will be used to cover the payments for undergraduate tuition and fees. Anyone who would like to apply for the scholarship should visit the PA-TSA website in order to complete the application, which is posted online, which is posted under "Scholarships" in the "Students" section of the website. In addition to completing the three-page application, the applicant is required to submit three letters of professional recommendation. High school transcripts, class rank, and SAT scores are supplementary information that must also be included with the application. In order to remain eligible for the scholarship, all of the above paperwork must be postmarked January 15 at the latest because late applications will not be considered. By making this scholarship available to TSA members, the Board of Directors hopes to promote the growth and involvement of current TSA members and future technology education teachers.

The second scholarship that is annually presented at the State Leadership Conference is the Outstanding Technology Student scholarship. This scholarship is very similar to the Technology Education Teacher scholarship in its requirements, except it is available to any active PA-TSA member. Applicants must also be a high school senior or graduate, but they need only be admitted into an undergraduate program, regardless of the specific program. The recipient of the scholarship will receive a total amount of \$1500 for the costs of undergraduate tuition and fees. The application for this scholarship is posted on the PA-TSA website for any PA-TSA member who is interested in more information (www.patsa.org under the Students then Scholarships links). This application and supplementary paperwork are identical to the application and paperwork for the scholarship for Prospective Technology Education Teachers. As a result, PA-TSA members who fulfill the requirements for both scholarships would have almost no additional work for applying to both as opposed to only submitting an application for one of the two scholarships. Applicants must have all paperwork postmarked no later than January 15 to stay eligible for the scholarship-selection process.

While these two above scholarships are the most well-known opportunities for college funding, TSA scholarships may also be available depending on the college/university. Information for three college scholarships that are directly administered by the colleges is also available online (www.patsa.org) that are directly administered by the college. California University of Pennsylvania (Cal U) is one of the three colleges whose application process for a TSA scholarship is posted at the TSA website. The interested applicants must be current members of TSA and incoming freshman at Cal U to the undergraduate technology education program. This application is nearly identical to the two above scholarships, but it encourages the applicant to submit a list of technology education courses taken, high school grade transcripts, SAT scores, portfolio of TSA activities, projects, and achievements, and evidence of class rank in addition to the three-page application. Even though this application includes slightly more paperwork than the two previous scholarships, the paperwork does not need to be postmarked until June 1, so six extra months are allotted to complete the additional work. The Pittsburgh Technology Institute (PTI) is the second college that offers scholarships for incoming freshman, who were active high school TSA members. The application information can be found at the PA-TSA website (www.patsa.org, Students then Scholarships links and clicking on Scholarship Information on the PTI website) or by directly visiting the PTI scholarship website (www.pti.edu/financialaid/financial-aid.html). The recipients of the TSA Scholarship must apply the financial aid to the July 2009 or October 2009 PTI enrollment. In order to renew the scholarship for a second year at PTI, recipients must maintain a 3.0 GPA. The renewed scholarship will provide \$6000 of partial tuition in an associate degree program. The third university that awards scholarships to TSA members is Johnson & Wales University (JWU). The information for this scholarship can be found on the PA-TSA website (www.patsa.org, Students then Scholarships link) or directly at the JWU admissions website (www.jwu.edu/admiss/scholarships/sch_mem_nso.htm). JWU offers a TSA Scholarship based on the applicant's participation in TSA events and competitions. The scholarship is also renewable for up to four years with a minimum of \$1000 to a maximum of full tuition. In order to continue renewing the scholarship, however, the recipient must participate or support JWU's TSA activities, which they sponsor in certain states (not including PA). TSA members who are interested in the full tuition must send their completed application by February 1. Any PA-TSA members who are considering attending any of the above three colleges should look into applying for these available scholarships. TSA members, who would like to attend other colleges, are encouraged to see if the admissions office offers scholarships for active TSA or PA-TSA members.

Members with questions should contact the state officer team at sot@patsa.org or TSA Scholarship Chairman Craig Jarrett at cjarrett@miltonsd.org.

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GET TO KNOW A STATE OFFICER

Jennifer Arnold State Secretary

Q: What is your favorite non-TSA activity?

A: Tennis. I play all the time on my varsity tennis team or just for fun with my friends.

Q: What is your favorite sport to play/watch?

A: I love to play and watch tennis, but I am also a huge fan of the Pittsburgh Steelers. Hopefully, I will be able to cheer them on to another Superbowl this year.

Q: Where is the coolest place you have ever been?

A: The Wimbledon Grand Slam Championships in tennis. I got to be a few feet from famous players like Roger Federer and Andy Roddick. It was amazing to witness it in person.

Q: What is one embarrassing fact about you?

A: I have hay fever, so when I have an allergic reaction my eyes become red and swollen. As a result, I have to go out in public during the spring looking like I am crying.

Q: If you could pick one place to go where would it be?

A: I would love to go to a Summer Olympics. I have enjoyed watching all the games this summer, especially the gymnastics, swimming, tennis, and beach volleyball. It would be unbelievable to watch these competitions at the Olympic village.

Q: What are your goals for after high school?

A: To study Biomedical and Electrical Engineering at Duke University, MIT, or CMU, my top three choices for schools. I would also like to continue playing tennis at college.

Rachel Bradley State Sergeant-At-Arms

Q: What is your favorite non-TSA activity?

A: Playing Field Hockey.

Q: What is your favorite sport to play/watch?

A: My favorite sport to play is Field Hockey but my favorite sport to watch is NFL Football.

Q: Where is the coolest place you have ever been?

A: Niagara Falls! It's so pretty there.

Q: What is one embarrassing fact about you?

A: I physically cannot blow my nose! Last time I did (when I was five!) I ended up with an ear infection. It's horrible when I have cold, not only am I congested, but it won't go away!

Q: If you could pick one place to go where would it be?

A: Italy. I would to visit Rome.

Q: What are your goals for after high school?

A: I hope to attend Drexel University for Biomedical Engineering. Afterwards I wish to work in medical research.

