

The Pa-POST



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Sit Up Seniors! *By Katherine Chen Pa-TSA President*

Wouldn't you like a little money for all the hard work you've never been paid for in school? As your college applications have finally made their way out the door, a new host of applications has just entered your life. You've probably heard about them from teachers, advisors, parents, and even peers. Yes, that's right. Scholarships. But before you see the dollar signs flash before your eyes, you've got some research to do. Luckily, you're already one step closer to bringing in the "ka-ching" by being part

of TSA.

The PA-TSA website provides information about a variety of scholarships offered under the "Scholarships and Awards" tab. The Terry Schwalms Memorial Award for Future Technology Teachers and the Outstanding Technology Student Award applications were due by January 15th but if you did not fill those out, don't lose hope! Three substantial scholarships are offered by the California University of Pennsylvania, the Pittsburgh Technical

Institute, and Johnson and Wales University. If you have applied to these institutions, do not hesitate to apply for their scholarships as well. The Cal-U application can be found on the website and must be mailed out by June 1st. The application for PTI can be found on their website under Financial Aid or from the link provided on patsa.org. PTI offers a scholarship of up to 6,000 dollars depending on the major you select. (Continued on Page 2)

Technology towards Efficiency and Collaboration

By Phil Hayes Pa-TSA Vice President

I hope this article finds you in the exciting time of regional conference preparation and state conference anticipation. By the time this PA-Post goes into publication, I will have already handed over two proposals to the PA-TSA Technology Committee, a group of advisors that run

PATSA.org and oversee all of the logistical technology that keeps PA-TSA running like a well-oiled machine. The following details each proposal and how these proposals will facilitate collaboration and efficiency within the PA-TSA organization. **Collaboration-** How often have you had to

design a new flyer to hang around your school to advertise TSA? The proposed PA-TSA Online Resources Center will allow a TSA member to upload documents and media for use by TSA members in other chapters to the PA-TSA website, patsa.org. (Cont. on Page 2)



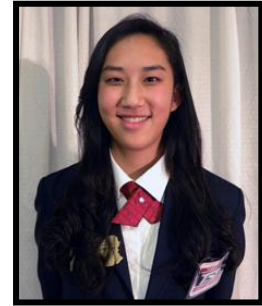
Sit up Seniors! (Cont.)

Information about the TSA scholarships offered by JWU can be found at <http://www.jwu.edu/content.aspx?id=12660#fbid=4FkwbDs4Fn4>. JWU offers 1,000 dollars to full tuition under its Technology Student Association (TSA) Scholarship but you have to submit the application before February 1st to be considered for full tuition. JWU also offers scholarships to the top

three winners of JWU-sponsored events at the state conference. 1st place is awarded a 1,000 dollar scholarship, 2nd a 750 dollar scholarship, and 3rd a 500 dollar scholarship to JWU. However, scholarship verification cards are due at JWU by May 31.

A little bit of work can go a long way towards making college more

affordable so get a head start on the next round of applications! They promise to be worthwhile.



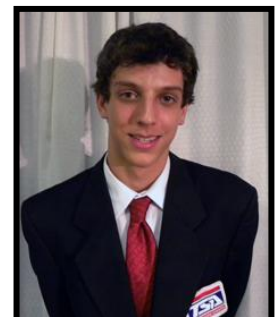
Technology towards Efficiency and Collaboration (Cont.)

With the implementation of this resource, members will be able to share their inspiration towards improving chapter membership and publicity initiatives. The uploaded documents could include promotional materials like flyers, videos, graphics, etc; all intended to publicize TSA. Before going public, all items would be screened for appropriateness and the person who uploads the file will have to agree to transfer copyright for the document or media to Pennsylvania TSA. A resource like this could boost web traffic to patsa.org and better connect PA-TSA as an organization. More importantly, new and

established chapters alike would have access to resources that could significantly improve their memberships.

Efficiency- At the Technology and Engineering Education Association of Pennsylvania (TEEAP) conference this past November, I briefed the PA-TSA Board as to the extent that the state officer team has recently used web conferencing to increase the number of meetings and better the communication among the officers. Web conferencing makes sense: it's accessible, interactive, and very financially sound. The official proposal for this web conferencing initiative details the procedural recommendations for web conferencing, but also encourages the PA-TSA Technology Committee to look at expanding PA-TSA's use of web conferencing to possibly include chapter-to-chapter or state officer-to-chapter meetings. Stay tuned for updates!

Do you have any modifications to these proposals or new ideas that you think could benefit PA-TSA? I'd be happy to hear from you. Contact me, Phil Hayes, at Vice.President@PATSA.org.



Summer Fun With National TSA! By Rachel Newel Pa-TSA Parliamentarian



Austin Tatum
National TSA Vice
President

Though the winter cold still has a lot of you bundled up in as many jackets as possible, it's not too early to be thinking about your summer plans. As you get ready for regionals and states, why not start getting excited about nationals? This year, the TSA National Conference will be held in Grapevine, Texas,

just a short ride from Dallas, from June 21st-25th. Nationals is an awesome experience, and I certainly hope you attend. The resort is expansive- with many restaurants and even a water park within the complex.. you will also have the opportunity to represent your school and state at the highest level of competition!

Kids from all over the country take part, and you will even be able to meet some kids from Germany. Nationals has so much to offer, but don't just take my word for it. Austin Tatum, our National Vice President, has answered a few questions about this year's conference:

Q: Why should members of PA TSA mark Dallas as one of their destinations this summer?

National Conference is the culminating experience of the TSA year. I know you all have quite a distance to travel (even more than mine from Tennessee!), but we have a fantastic conference planned with lots of opportunities and are looking forward to seeing a strong representation from PA TSA as usual!

Q: If you could send a message to PA TSA, what would you say?

During my time in TSA, I've seen some of the most dedicated, friendly, and passionate students come from PA TSA. I'm always impressed by your organization and the work of your state, and I want to thank you for setting such an example of excellence and dedication in our organization!

Q: Are there any changes to how nationals will work, or what is offered?

We've actually moved the second day general session to the evening! Competitions and the education fair will be held beginning in the morning and throughout the day, and we'll come together for the second general session at night. Be on the lookout for a couple of other potential special surprises, as well!

Q: What are you looking forward to most about Nationals in Dallas?

Well it's my 8th National Conference, and my last TSA conference ever! While that's a little depressing, I'm extremely excited to spend the conference reliving memories with friends, having the officer experience, and competing as hard as ever! I'm also really excited about the conference location.

Q: What has the national officer team been working on since your election in Baltimore?

We've definitely stayed busy! Since August, we have developed a press release template for chapter publicity use, started the monthly national officer blog on the TSA website, and continued the School Scene newsletter. We also began the National TSA YouTube channel, which we're currently working to update with a fresh stock of videos. We also worked with the Board of Directors to develop the Official Attire survey that was released in November. On top of all this, we've held conference calls every month this year to make sure everyone is on track and everything is getting done.



Blast from the Past *By Jacob Ross Pa-TSA Historian*

The past: it's a mysterious concept. Many facts and figures are lost over time, but without these minute details the present would not be recognizable. So then you might ask yourself, "How did we get here? How did TSA become the large organization that it is today?" Hopefully I'll be able to answer this question.

The birth of the organization that you know as TSA took place in 1978. During this year the AIASA, or American Industrial Arts Student Association, became independent from the American Industrial Arts Association (AIAA). By 1981 the organization had 11 specific "Standards," and by 1985 an Event Handbook was published with the association's events for the next 5 years. But, 3 years later, on June 22, 1988 the students of AIASA voted to change the name of their association to the Technology Student Association (TSA) to better describe the mission of the organization. Under the presidency of Adam Zakarian, the new name and trademark were submitted to the United

States Patent and Trademark Office. The first national president of this new association called TSA was Curtis Sheets of Virginia.

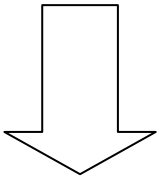
The TSA logo that is still used today was designed by a TSA chapter advisor from Georgia named Steve Price. This design was adopted for use by TSA on all levels of organization: local, state, and national. What is now known as the TSA National Honors Society was formed in 1995 when the National Association of Secondary School Principals teamed up with TSA to create the American Technology Honor Society. In 1996 Middle School and High School TSA were separated when they each acquired their own competitive events with different guidelines. The TSA National website was launched in 2002 and is still online today. The web address is

<http://www.tsaweb.org>.

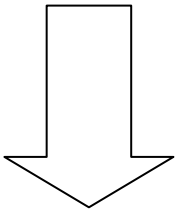
Looking into the future, TSA has recently began a partnership with VEX Robots to offer students a

hands on learning experience about Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). With our bright past it seems that the Technology Student Association will have a long and glorious future. With 48 state delegations; 150,000 Middle and High School Student members; and even a few international chapters, our organization seems to be stronger than ever. But now we have inherited this great organization from the students and advisors from the last generation, and it is our duty to keep advancing our association. We should all strive to make this "blast from the past" propel our membership far into the future for the students of tomorrow to enjoy, cherish, and most importantly: to always be "learning to live in a technical world."

AIAA



AIASA



TSA



Wednesday Night Activity

By Liza Atillasoy Pa-TSA secretary

The State Officer team has been hard at work this year in an effort to make this spring's state conference the best one yet! This year, when you arrive at Seven Springs you can spend Wednesday night adding finishing touches to your projects, spending time with your chapter, or hanging out with the State Officer Team and other members at Open Mic Night! To showcase PA-TSA's incredible talent, the SOT decided to hold a fireside 'talent show' where members can perform a musical act, individually or in

a group, during the first night of the conference. All members are welcome to stop by at any point during the night, as admission is free. However, we will be selling popcorn and other snacks for a small fee. If you're interested in performing email Katherine Chen, PA-TSA President, at president@patsa.org. Be sure to include what music you want to play, what musical equipment you can bring, and the names of people you're performing with. Unfortunately if there aren't enough people

interested in performing, there will be no Wednesday night activity. We look forward to hearing what different kinds of musical talent our members' possess, and are enthusiastically awaiting a great time with all of you at the conference!



Are you the Next Iron Man?

By Emily Bieber Pa-TSA Sergeant-at-arms

Do you think you're the best at pushups? How about swimming? Or Running? Or crunches? Well, like past years, all you beefy TSA members are invited to participate in the Iron Man Competition. For several years now, PA-TSA has held the event of Iron Man. Overall, the goal of the event is to see who is the strongest TSA member through rigorous physical tests. You need to prove yourself in push-ups, crunches, stair climbing, swimming and, new this year— running!

Even if you're not the fastest or strongest, don't fret! It's all for fun! So get all of your friends together come out on Thursday or Friday to compete. When you come, don't forget to bring a few bucks. Although it is free to compete, if you donate at least \$1 to ACS when you arrive, you will receive a drawstring bag with the TSA logo on it. Now, for all you muscle crazy members who plan on winning, you're probably asking: What's in it for me? Well, first place wins \$50, second place wins \$35 and third place wins \$25. The competition is split into three

Groups: one group for high school members, one for middle school members and one for all the advisors. Prizes will be given out for each group. So, when you're sitting around in your room doing nothing on Thursday and Friday, don't forget about Ironman!



Green Initiative Update

By Josh Hoffman Green Committee Chairman

The Pennsylvania TSA Green Committee is working hard to bring you more ways to reduce your environmental footprint at conferences and as members of TSA. Some projects that are currently in the planning stages are confidential for now, but here is what we can tell you:

Keep checking the patsa.org/green webpage for news about some new activities at the State Conference this year which we will be organizing. I will be putting together a new Electronic Submission Project survey. We are also going to be posting some tips on ways to make your events more environmentally friendly, and we'll be putting up materials for chapters to run environment-promoting activities at the local level, which can be great for local fundraising and public relations.

If you want to get an early start on organizing these events before we get the materials up, if you have a compelling idea for PA-TSA or TSA for this year or the next related to the environment, or if you just want to ask an environmental question, feel free always to email me and the committee at green@patsa.org. See you at Seven Springs!

Question? Comments? Concerns?
Contact me at reporter@patsa.org
All suggestions are welcome!

New Year's Revelation

By Dhruv Pillai Pa-TSA Treasurer

"I'm going to go the gym more this year."

"Good luck with that, Dad."

"How about you, what's your New Year's resolution?"

"To get you to stop being stingy and turn the heat up; it's freezing in here."

"Dhruv, you have a t-shirt and shorts on; you're dressed like you're going to the beach. Wear a sweatshirt!"

"Dad, I want to be able to be comfortable in my own home. Do I really need to change?"

That was a conversation my dad and I had in the beginning of January. My dad wasn't acting out of a parsimonious desire to conserve cash as I had thought, though; he was trying to conserve energy. Global warming has been a moderately hot topic to discuss recently. Movies like *The Day After Tomorrow* and *An Inconvenient Truth*, both dire warnings about global warming, have been relatively popular; *The Day After Tomorrow* grossed \$654,771,772, and *An Inconvenient Truth* was the fifth highest all-time grossing documentary in the United States, and also won Academy Awards for Best Documentary. However, climate change still doesn't seem to garner the huge publicity that I feel it merits.

After that conversation with my father, he put a book on my desk and told me to read it. The book—*earth*, by Bill McKibben—is about the far-reaching and lethal effects of CO₂ buildup in the atmosphere.

It discusses a point of no return that once breached, will cause some serious damage to our delicate ecosystem. But the thing is, he talks about the turning point *in the past tense*. It has *already happened!* He's not talking about ways to save the planet as we know it; at this point, he says that the best we can do is to "try to manage our descent." That's scary. That's really scary.

While there has been a lot of controversy about whether climate change is real or not, McKibben cites a large number of statistics to back his assertion that climate change has already happened. Plain old numbers. And numbers don't lie. McKibben informs "so far humans [...] have raised the temperature of the planet [a degree and a half Fahrenheit]." He also included alarming statistics about the polar glaciers. The summer of 2007 led to a loss of 22% of the Arctic ice cap, which led to the ice caps being "1.1 million square miles smaller than ever recorded in history." Similar melting happened both in 2008 and 2009. He also talked about the rising oceans, which, incidentally, have been absorbing some of the copious amounts of carbon

dioxide that we have pumped into the atmosphere. This, however, is not good; the increased CO₂ content is causing acidity in the ocean to rise. "Already ocean pH has slipped from 8.2 to 8.1," which is endangering coral reefs and other species. By 2100, ocean pH is expected to plummet to 7.8, the lowest level in 20 million years. And now, maybe the most important number of all: 350. During and after the Industrial Revolution, CO₂ levels spiked from 275 parts per million (ppm), and never fell back down. 350 ppm is what James Hansen, a leading climatologist, decreed the highest safe concentration of CO₂ in the air; above 350, and our civilization, as well as all other forms of life on Earth, would be threatened. But guess what? We're past 350. We're way past 350. "The planet has nearly 390 parts per million carbon dioxide in the atmosphere." And it is expected to get much worse. "It [is] 'improbable' that we'd be able to stop short of 650 parts per million, even if rich countries adopted 'draconian emissions reductions within a decade.'" Most experts agree that 650 is an optimistic projection; a number closer to 725 is more widely accepted, though even that grim prediction is being contested. 725, by the way, is more than (Continued on page 8)

New Year's Revelation (Cont.)

double what Hansen decreed the safe number, and almost 200 above 550 ppm, at which point we will allegedly “start to witness ‘dangerous’ levels of warming and damage.”

All this newfound information depressed me. It completely tore down my perception of reality, and put in its place a dark image of a volatile planet that will soon make us pay for every molecule of carbon dioxide that we have so thoughtlessly jettisoned into the atmosphere. A feeling of hopelessness took command of my psyche as the sheer vastness of the problem overcame me, and reading on and learning about the politicians that are making moving away from fossil fuels extremely difficult only exacerbated the feeling. The realization that I will be trying to earn a living on a

planet that is fundamentally different from the one that my dad worked on; that is a scary thought. Don't write this off as just another article about going green and the environment; something needs to be done about this now, and the world is not going to be a pretty place if we let it go the way it's going.

The book terrified me about the future, and made me really appreciate what we've done to this planet. The author of *eaarth* has set up a website, *350.org*, which is devoted to getting CO₂ concentrations back down to 350 ppm. In order to accomplish this, however, we will need to elect politicians that take environmental protection

more seriously, and, most importantly, are *aware* of this crisis. We will also have to be aware ourselves; (another statistic) “44% of Americans believe global warming comes from ‘long-term planetary trends’ and not the pumps at the Exxon station.” So tell your friends, parents, neighbors, about this problem. Read the book yourself. We *need* to raise awareness and make the public more knowledgeable about this crisis. And that's my new, New Year's Resolution.



The Next Step for Pa-TSA: The inspiration Award

By Dan Zollman

As an alumnus of TSA—one of the defining experiences of my life—I'd like to make a controversial suggestion: As we prepare for competitions and pursue trophies as TSA members, we often lose sight of TSA's very purpose.

The specific "purpose" may be different for everyone. But what brings us together is a common interest in the possibilities for engineering and design. Technology enables us to solve problems, to improve people's lives, and to build our communities and environments in unprecedented ways. As Gandhi said: "Be the change that you want to see in the world." I believe that technology is one way for us to achieve that change. In the spirit of Gandhi's charge, we are introducing the **PA-TSA Inspiration Award**. This award challenges us to leverage our creativity, leadership skills, and community- building power to bring positive change to our

communities. The Inspiration Award encourages chapters to build relationships with their school, local and/or state communities. At each regional and state TSA conference annually, one chapter will be recognized as a role model for future generations of TSA members. A chapter can win the award for activities such as:

- Helping other TSA chapters or mentoring students at other schools.
- Students mentoring students within your own chapter.
- Community service projects.
- Any activity in which students build relationships and help other people.

In TSA, we have an immense potential to transform our communities at every level. I challenge you to think about how your chapter could reach that potential. Connect with your school district, local groups, and other TSA chapters. As you make plans, share your ideas with other chapters at the state conference in April. Your ideas will inspire other chapters to pursue their own. To start, even the smallest activities can impact the lives of others. From year to year, we can build upon these activities, developing a tradition in which it is our greatest priority to *be the change we wish to see in the world*.

More information about the Inspiration Award is available at: http://patsa.org/students/inspiration_award.php

Do you have amazing writing skills?

Or even just a good idea for an article?

Let me know at reporter@patsa.org

Technology and TSA

By Sitara Soundararajan

It is difficult not to be amazed by the progress of technology, especially the mind-boggling pace that we have seen in the last two decades. For example, the first mail service via horses was established in 14 AD. Centuries later, a huge triumph in communication technology was achieved by Charles Wheatstone, who invented the electric telegraph in 1838. And, in less than four decades after that, the telephone was designed, taking communication to yet another level. Of course, today's email and instant messaging in addition to the emergence of Facebook and other Internet forums have revolutionized the communication world within a relatively short period of time. Don't you agree that progress is happening

at an *exponential* rate? The truth is we are witnessing a huge boom in technological innovation that will only continue to expand in the years to come. Considering the pace at which technology is progressing, it has become necessary to understand the importance of technology so that we can keep up with the racing time. And that is *exactly* the mission of the Technology Student Association.

With the 150,000 students currently participating in TSA, the organization stimulates personal growth, develops leadership, and gives opportunities to apply and amalgamate science and

technology concepts through participating in competitive events. The future engineers, technologists, and scientists are preparing to reshape what lies ahead. From 1978, the year the organization started, it has spread to more than 2,000 schools in 48 states, developed over 60 events, and established Regional, State, and National Conferences. The growth of Technology Student Association has been as astronomical as the growth of technology itself. This in my opinion is likely to continue as the need to understand and utilize technology can only expand further enhancing the role of this organization.

Regional Competitions are Quickly Approaching!

By Kelsey Johnson Pa-TSA Reporter



With the Regional Competitions being only a few weeks away, here are a few things to remember:

1. **READ READ READ!!!** You can never read the rules too many times. Especially considering many events change from year to year. Don't assume your event will stay the same this year just because it hasn't changed recently.

2. Make sure you have extra supplies with you at regionals in case your project needs some touching up.

3. Get lots of sleep the night before and eat a good breakfast. Regionals is a long day for everyone and being physically prepared is important.

4. **BRING MONEY!** The State officer team is going to start raising money that will benefit the American Cancer Society at

regionals this year. You can even get a head start on choosing which officer will get pied in the face at states! The cans will be on the registration tables when you walk in.

I wish you all good luck in your events and I hope to see you at States in April!

