



Northeastern Oklahoma Math and Science Teachers Association

Volume 1, Issue 2

March 7, 2003

Exchanging Ideas: Our First Annual Meeting and Conference

From the desk of President-Elect Lance Phillips:

The first annual NOMSTA conference has concluded, and by every measure it was a great success. Yes, there were a couple of late cancellations. Yes, we had a little trouble with the lights, and a couple of conference rooms were obviously set for arctic exploration judging from the temperature in the room. But I saw a look on Dr. Adam's face; she was pleased and that, in my eyes, meant that it was a success. Over 130 people attended, more than two dozen presentations were offered, the meal was good and the camaraderie even better.

With that proclamation I must also offer an expression of gratitude to all of you who worked so hard to insure that success, who prepared and presented, who organized and orchestrated the logistics of making it happen, who solicited, or provided the door prizes. But most of all I want to thank those of you who attended, who gave up their day off to change roles and let the teacher become the taught. A sincere and heartfelt thank you to all of you who care enough about your students to try and better your craft.

As we prepared for the conference, and sought to establish the constitution and set the framework for what NOMSTA is



Registration at the first annual NOMSTA Conference, February 8, 2003 at NSU Tahlequah.

supposed to be, I thought of an old colloquialism my dad would sometimes phrase, "If a student hasn't learned, the teacher hasn't taught." Granted, my dad didn't make his career as an educator, but he taught everybody he knew more than they often realized. He made his mark on the world making it a better place for families to gather and kids to play.

I've been in enough classrooms to know that some kids just don't want to be taught; they would rather that their classroom have no teacher, no PASS objectives, and no purpose aside from succumbing to their momentary whims. I know the frustration such students exact upon their teachers, and I have seen a few teachers who have given up, gotten burned out and lost that passion that initially drove them to teach. I have also realized that thrill, that sense of exultation of having reached the peak when one of the same self-serving students have their interests piqued, when they turn from lethargy and seriously desire to learn.

Our goal as teachers is to teach. To teach everyone placed in our charge, no matter how daunting the task. The purpose of NOMSTA is to help you in that task, by sharing ideas, methods, and tools to reach all of our students. We appreciate those who took part in the conference and missed those who didn't make it.

It may seem that NOMSTA is just another teacher organization and you've had all the education politics you can stand. Let me assure you politics is not on our agenda, helping you be a better teacher is. Take part and partake in a fun, worthwhile organization, NOMSTA.

Inside this issue:

<i>Conference Highlights</i>	2
<i>NSU Summer Graduate Course</i>	3
<i>SCIMAST Academies</i>	3
<i>MASTEP Application Deadline</i>	4
<i>Upcoming 2003 Events</i>	4
<i>Teacher Survey</i>	5
<i>OCEE Leadership Clinic</i>	6
<i>SCIMAST On-Line Mentoring</i>	6

Did you know?

- 41.7% of Oklahoma public schools are in rural areas
- Almost 50% of our students qualify for free or reduced lunch
- In 2000, 82% of our 5th grade students and 87% of our 8th grade students scored "satisfactory or above" in the Science criterion-referenced test
- In Mathematics, 74% of 5th graders and 58% of 8th graders scored "satisfactory or above"
- In 1999-2000, the national dropout rate was 11.2%, while our Oklahoma rate was 5.1%
- Also for the 1999-2000 school year, Oklahoma was 49th in teacher pay and 40th in student expenditures
- Source: The Oklahoma Landscape Paper published by SCIMAST, Winter 2002

Conference Highlights

A variety of Mathematics workshops ranged from information on the Test Specifications of the Algebra I End of Instruction Test from the State Department to Integrating Math and Reading by Shelly Gantt.

Pre-Service Teachers from NSU demonstrated mathematical games



they constructed, Ann West helped us to “discover” important principles of quadratic functions and well as exponential growth and decay.

Dr. Deborah Carment from NSU introduced us to Mathematics and quilting, while Lexy Taylor explained a hands-on system for solving equations



The Science workshops included such fascinating topics as Talking Trash by Kay Frank from the Solid Waste Institute of Oklahoma and Atom Building Games by Kathlene Woodring, while Mary Hynes gave us edible rocks.

Dr. Calvin Cole provided information from Magnets and Motors to Electricity and Marsha Suttten explained and modeled DNA replication using felt pieces. In a workshop available to both Mathematics teachers and Science teachers, Dr. April Adams and Dr. Deborah Carment describe the NSF funded program MASTEP and how to apply for the summer 2003 courses.



New NSU Summer 2003 Graduate Course

The following course for Middle School and High School Science Teachers will be offered as a Web-Based course this summer. There will be one mandatory class meeting on campus and optional weekly class meetings for those students who want on-campus technology support. The format of the course will be flexible so that MASTEP participants can fulfill course requirements in either June or July and the course will not conflict with MASTEP courses. Non-MASTEP participants may choose to fulfill course requirements in June or July also. All students will need to pay tuition and fees. This course is not supported by MASTEP funding. All participants must register for the class by the regular summer school deadlines. Please consult the NSU Summer 2003 Schedule for information. Pending approval, this course will be re-named **SCI 5443 Trends and Issues in Science Education**.

SCI 5113: Special Topics in Science: Trends and Issues in Science Education

Section: 0502

Course Description: Designed for middle school and high school science teachers, this course will focus on recent trends and issues in science education, including teaching methods, assessment, and state and national science education standards, and how these issues affect science teaching and learning in middle school and high school.

Instructor: Dr. April Adams (918-456-5511 ext. 3819, adams001@nsuok.edu)

SCIMAST 2003 Summer Academies

Field Science Summer Academies

The academies below provide experiential learning in real world settings with content experts who assist teachers with classroom implementation. SCIMAST provides teacher participants in the academies below with housing and food in the summer sessions. Additionally, as \$175 stipend will be distributed: \$50 released after year one and two of the summer institute, and \$75 release in December. Please complete registration form and mail the registration form with the \$25 fee to Petra Ramirez at 211 East 7th Street, Austin, TX 78701 to secure your place in the academy. For additional information contact Nikki Hanegan at nhane-gan@sedl.org or 1-800-476-6861.

2003 Summer Session dates and locations

June 9-13: Lawton, OK "A Geologic Walk through Time" Facilitators: Drs. Charles Gilbert from Oklahoma University, Norman and Ben Powell of Phillips Petroleum, Bartlesville. Participants will explore intrusive relationships in an igneous terrain, learn to map geologic contacts on topographic maps, study the surface manifestations of deep-seated faults, and learn how to unravel the stratigraphy of a layered intrusion. Housing will be in the dormitories at Cameron University. All food and course expenses will be paid by SCIMAST. Professional development credit available!

June 16-20: Fayetteville, AR "From Air to Earth: Shaping our Environment" Facilitator: Dr. John G. Hehr; University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. The overall aim is to transfer the field experience and laboratory techniques to the real world of the local school environment and excite students in hands-on science. Participants will study geology of the region, while collecting fossils and visiting karst sites. Housing will be the dormitories at University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. All food and course expenses will

be paid by SCIMAST.

July 16-20: Tahlequah, OK "A Nature Adventure in the Wildlife Preserve" Facilitator: Dr. Craig Clifford, Northeastern State University. The interdependence of nature will be the focus as you make observations, ask questions, discuss and design experiments, collect data and plan long range investigations. Oklahoma Professional development available! Housing will be in the dormitories at Northeastern State University Oklahoma at Tahlequah. All food and course expenses will be paid by SCIMAST.

Interested candidates can apply by calling the Southwest Educational Laboratory (SEDL) at 512-476-6861, ext. 280 (Maria E. Torres) or download the registration form (pdf file format). Applicants need to reserve a slot in the academies by sending the completed application to:

Maria E. Torres

Southwest Education Development Laboratory

211 East 7th Street

Austin, TX 78701

Participants will receive a confirmation letter with additional academy details after May 24, 2003.

[Http://www.sedl.org/scimast/teachers_as_leaders/field_science.html](http://www.sedl.org/scimast/teachers_as_leaders/field_science.html)



MASTEP Application Deadline Extended to April 9

The Mathematics and Science Teacher Enhancement Project (MASTEP) has additional space for a few more Middle School Mathematics and Middle School Science Teachers. Therefore, we have extended the application deadline to April 9, 2003. This National Science Foundation funded program provides professional development for middle school math and science teachers. This summer there will be both a June and July session in math and in science. A total of four math courses and four science courses will be taught.

June 9—July 3, 2003 Mathematics Track

Algebra Concepts and Technology in Mathematics

June 6—July 3, 2003 Science Track

Investigative Biology and Inquiry into Physical Science I

July 7—July 31, 2003 Mathematics Track

Data Analysis and Geometry

July 7—August 1, 2003

Science Track

Inquiry into Geology (new name for course taught last summer) and Astronomy for Teachers

Participants receive a stipend (Math teachers receive a total stipend of \$1,200 and science teachers receive a total stipend of \$1,500), six hours of graduate credit with no fees or tuition, the opportunity to apply for MASTEP Supply Grants of up to \$500 for materials for the classroom, the opportunity to apply for MASTEP Conference Stipends of up to \$500 so that participants can travel to professional conferences, and free registration for the 2004 meeting of NOMSTA. Application forms can be copied from the web site at <http://arapaho.nsuok.edu/~adams001/MASTEP2002.htm>, or call Bonnie Rhodes, MASTEP Coordinator at 918-456-5511 ext. 3819 to receive an application by FAX.

Upcoming 2003 Events

March 23-26	NARST Meeting	Philadelphia, PA
March 26-30	NSTA Meeting	Philadelphia, PA
April 9	Extended Deadline for MASTEP Applications	
May 10	NCTM Annual Meeting	San Antonio, TX
June 6-July 3	NSU MASTEP June Science Session	
June 9-July 3	NSU MASTEP June Mathematics Session	
July 7-August 1	NSU MASTEP July Science Session	
July 7-31	NSU MASTEP July Mathematics Session	
October 2-4	NCTM Regional Conference	Salt Lake City, UT
October 25	OSTA Meeting	
October 30-November 1	NSTA Northern Area Convention	Minneapolis, MN
November 6-8	NCTM Regional Conference	Charleston, SC
November 13-15	NSTA Midwestern Area Convention	Kansas City, MO
November 20-22	NCTM Regional Conference	Edmonton, Alberta
December 4-6	NSTA Western Area Convention	Reno, NV



Northeastern Oklahoma Math and
Science Teachers Association

NOMSTA

Northeastern State University
College of Math Science and Nursing
611 North Grand
Tahlequah, OK 74464-2302

Phone: 918-456-5511 ext. 3819

Fax: 918-458-2325

Email: adams001@nsuok.edu

Newsletter Email: hamr@tahlequah.k12.ok.us

NOMSTA Web Site
[Http://arapaho.nsuok.edu/~NOMSTA](http://arapaho.nsuok.edu/~NOMSTA)

NOMSTA Officers and Board
President: Timmie Spangler
President-Elect: Lance Phillips
Membership Secretary: Stacy Ezell
Newsletter Editor: Rebekah Ham
Webmaster: April Adams

Mathematics Division
Workshop Chair: Lexy Taylor
Elementary: Shelly Gantt
Middle School: Sharon Gleese
High School: Shiranjini Jeyarajah-Stotts
College/University: Steven Wilkinson

Science Division
Workshop Chair: Patricia Laughlin
Elementary: Kathy Coleman
Middle School: Renae Shoate
High School: Cherinell Riley
College/University: Monica Macklin

OCEE 2003 Leadership Clinic

The 2003 Leadership Clinic offered by the Oklahoma Consortium for Environmental Education (OCEE) will be held June 11, 12, and 13 at the Oklahoma City Zoo, 2101 NE 50th, Oklahoma, OK 73111.

This "Knowledge Safari" will focus on ways that you can build pride in your community, address health and safety issues, and gain knowledge about the economic benefits of a healthy, safe community. Resources available during the three-day clinic will include information that will help you eat healthier, maintain a healthier and safe home, live less expensively and use fewer chemicals.

You can participate by filling out the application at the OCEE website at www.oklahomaeeconsortium.org and click on Leadership Clinic for information and a printable application. Applications will be accepted only for community TEAMS of 3-5 members. The team application should include a listing of pos-

sible projects your team will be considering and a brief biography of each team member, as well as a description of the skills and experience that each person will bring to the clinic. Teams will be required to submit a \$50 deposit with their application. The deposit will be fully refunded once the team has completed the three-day clinic and outlined a community project. Note: only a limited number of teams will be accepted. Each region of the state will be represented by two to three teams. Designated regions are Northeast, Northwest, Central, Southeast, and Southwest. Your team application must be received by April 1 in order to be considered. Teams will be notified of acceptance no later than April 15, 2003.

Should you have any questions about the Clinic, please contact Mary Coley at MMcint2415@aol.com, or by phone at 918-451-4638.



SCIMAST has a valuable resource for science and mathematics teachers: an online mentoring program and archive. The mentoring project Web site is a place that mathematics and science teachers can access for help in addressing teaching difficulties. Teachers send in questions via the SCIMAST mentoring Web page; then regional mathematics and science teachers recognized as Presidential Awardees respond to the questions via email. The question and answer are both posted on the Web site that teachers can browse or search and is emailed to teachers who request to receive notification of new mentoring dialogue. To ask a mentor a question, go to www.sedl.org/scimast/mentoring.html; to join or browse, go to www.sedl.org/scimast/archives/.