



2012 Annual Conference Report

PAESTA

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

The Pennsylvania Earth Science Teachers Association (PAESTA) held its first annual conference October 14-15, 2012, at Penn State Brandywine in Media, Pennsylvania. The theme of the conference was ***Linking Earth and Space Science Instruction to Career Opportunities***. This theme was chosen to connect with the American Geosciences Institute (AGI)'s Earth Science Week theme for the year, *Discovering Careers in the Earth Sciences*. The conference was organized by the PAESTA Executive and Teacher Advisory Committees, and conference registration was free.

The conference began on the evening of Friday, October 14, with a viewing of the documentary *Switch: To A Smarter Energy Future* (<http://www.switchenergyproject.com/>). The movie was provided for free by the Geological Society of America and open to not only conference registrants but the general public. The viewing began at 6PM, with a food truck available on campus for attendees to purchase dinner before the movie began. A few announcements were given after the showing, and the activities concluded for the evening. Approximately 30 people attended this evening session.

The conference began at 9AM the morning of Saturday, October 15. After some welcome notes by the PAESTA President Laura Guertin, the PAESTA Award for Teaching Excellence was presented to Heather Spotts, a 6th grade general science teacher from Bellefonte School District. The next item on the conference agenda was the conference keynote, given by Heather Houlton, Outreach Coordinator of AGI's Workforce Program. Heather's keynote focused on Earth science careers and resources available through AGI.

The next session was a session that encouraged conference-wide participation and collaboration, organized by PAESTA TAC members Kelly Hunt and Jenny Hoffman. Titled, "Collaborative Approach to Developing Earth System Science Resources Through PAESTA," a full description of the approach to and execution of the session is described in the Summer 2013 issue of *The Earth Scientist*, <http://www.nestanet.org/cms/sites/default/files/journal/Summer13.pdf>.

The conference had three blocks of time defined as Choice Sessions with 30-minute or 60-minute presentations. The Choice Sessions were grouped into three themes – Across Disciplines, Professional Practices, and Beyond the Workshop. Eleven Choice Sessions were given by fourteen presenters (some sessions had more than one presenter). There was a "working lunch" session for conference attendees to be introduced and taken through the PAESTA website, led by PAESTA's webmaster Eric Aitala. The conference ended with an online survey (completed by 35 participants) and raffle.

Saturday, October 13, 2012

	CONFERENCE	ACROSS DISCIPLINES	PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES	BEYOND THE WORKSHOP
Time \ Room		Tomezsko 101	Tomezsko 209	Tomezsko 203
9:00 - 10:15 AM	Welcome and Keynote			
10:15 - 11:00 AM	Collaborative Approach to Developing Earth System Science Resources Through PAESTA			
11:00 - Noon		Claim, Evidence, Reasoning: Helping Students to Construct Scientific Explanations	The iPad as an Instructional Tool	Importance of Efficiency in Energy Conversion
Noon - 12:45 PM	LUNCH PAESTA Website			
12:45 - 1:45 PM		A Cemetery as a Site for Multidisciplinary Teaching	Publishing Your Curricular Innovations Through PAESTA and Professional Journals Teaching Earth Science Concepts in Meaningful Ways: Understanding Middle and High School Student's Ideas	Exoplanets and Habitable Worlds
1:45 - 2:00 PM	Break			
2:00 - 3:00 PM		A New Slant on Acid/Base Chemistry: The Influence of Carbon Dioxide on the Chemistry of the Oceans Young Children's Ideas About Earth's Surface and Changes	Introduction to Google Apps	High, dry and really flat: Field notes from the Tibetan Plateau
3:00 - 3:15 PM	Survey and Closing Remarks			
3:15 - 3:30 PM	Raffle and Free Cycle			

Fifty-two people attended the conference, supported by three staff members handling registration and providing conference participants with internet access. Including the conference-wide sessions (except the opening plenary), the following table is a breakdown of the affiliation of the presenters:

Penn State affiliation (faculty, student, staff): 11 individuals
 K-12 teachers: 5 individuals

Conference website: <http://www.paesta.psu.edu/2012-paesta-conference>

Full conference schedule (with session descriptions and supporting files):
<http://www.paesta.psu.edu/paesta-conference-2012-schedule>

Report submitted June 2013, completed by Laura Guertin