

NAGT/ NEW ENGLAND SECTION NEWS -- FALL 2011

Topics in this issue :

1. Our Annual Meeting
Dec. 10, Amherst College with Patrick Getty presentation the NEW Two Year College Division of NAGT
2. Karen Saul from R.I. is our OESTA winner.
3. GSA (Northeast Section) meeting will be in HARTFORD. Education topic presenters invited (12/13 deadline).
4. New 2YC Division of NAGT

Section Officers for 2012.

President: Bruce Rueger, Colby College
VP 1 -- Tarin Weiss, Westfield State College
VP 2 --OPEN POSITION --
Treasurer -- Julia Daly, Univ. of Maine, Farmington
Newsletter Editor, Richard Little, who is also the OESTA Chair. Contact him at:
rdlittle2000@aol.com
Past President: Karen Kortz, Community College of Rhode Island

Officers Note: Due to the resignation of Cristin Ashmankas in September, past president Karen Kortz has volunteered to finish Cristin's 2011 term.

Annual Meeting.

You are invited to our NAGT - NE annual meeting scheduled for 11:30 am, Saturday, Dec. 10th at the "new" Beneski Natural History Museum at Amherst College. The section business meeting will be held at 11:30 am and continue through lunch (pizza provided). At 1 pm will be a tour of the museum and its best-in-the-world dinosaur footprint collection as well as a presentation by Patrick Getty, Univ. of Connecticut: "Trace Fossils of the Connecticut River Valley"

ALL SECTION MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND plus the public is invited...

11:30 - 12:15 Officers meeting. NAGT Members and interested others also invited to attend.
12:30 - 1:00 Lunch (\$5 food charge)
1:00 - 2:30 Museum Tour and Presentation: "Trace Fossils of the Connecticut River Valley"
Patrick Getty, University of Connecticut
2:30 - 3:00 Follow-up Discussions

NOTE: IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE BUSINESS MEETING AND LUNCH, PLEASE RESPOND TO RDLITTLE2000@AOL.COM so that we can order food.

NE Section OEST Winner

THE NE SECTION OESTA for 2010 goes to Karen Saul. Karen is a 15-year veteran 8th grade earth science teacher at Nicholas A. Ferri Middle School, Johnston, RI. Karen's nominator states that, among other accomplishments, you are "a star teacher" who has "amazing insights into what will work in a classroom."

Karen's classroom is an active learning environment with a variety of students in an urban setting. Students work in small groups and analyze information. They present formal lab

reports of their synthesized work but also are encouraged to be creative, using narrative, song, and drawing to demonstrate their learning.

Field work is scheduled as possible. At one nearby site, students observe glacial scratches and erratics plus analyze the underlying metaconglomerate bedrock and its ridgeline topography. They observe rock weathering in process by using "microdomes" over lichen, and collect sediment. Karen states, "How can one gain an appreciation for the natural world without direct, focused study and getting his/her hands dirty?"

Karen also uses the internet to bring the world to her students. She has designed a tectonics of the world excursion using Google Earth. The students make their way from their mid-plate location to various plate boundaries all over the world. As her nominator, Dr. Karen Kortz of the Community College of Rhode Island observes: Karen "does not shy away from using technology, but instead embraces it. She has become the go-to teacher when other teachers have questions regarding using technology in their classrooms." Karen Saul comments that "Students must be introduced to the wealth of available tools and benefits of technology while exploring science."

Karen approaches her teaching with humor and she has a well-rounded and deep knowledge of geologic content. She is well organized, innovative, and keeps up with current events and trends in both science and education. She has given a number of workshops and participates in an on-going education research project involving students' misconceptions.

"Make a claim and back it up with evidence from your data" is one of Karen's mantras. We have done that and it is with great pleasure that the New England Section selects Karen Saul as our 2011 Outstanding Earth Science Teacher Award winner.

-----nomination by Karen Kortz, narrative by R. Little ----

NEEDED: an OESTA nomination for 2011. See the NAGT web site for forms and information.

NAGT Activity at the Northeast GSA Meeting

Northeast GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA MEETING. NE NAGT is sponsoring two theme sessions on geoscience education at the upcoming Northeast Geological Society of American meeting March 18-20 in Hartford, CT. We invite you to submit an abstract to one of our sponsored sessions to help make these sessions a success! Details about each session are given below. To submit abstracts, please visit the NE GSA webpage:

<http://www.geosociety.org/sections/ne/2012mtg/> . Abstracts are due December 13. Please contact Karen Kortz (kkortz@ccri.edu) or Christine Witkowski (cwitkowski@mxcc.commnet.edu) if you have any questions.

17. Inquiry-Based Activities: Examples and Effectiveness.

Cosponsored by the National Association of Geoscience Teachers (NAGT).

Karen Kortz, Community College of Rhode Island; Ann Hadley, Manchester Community College.

Research indicates that students learn more when taught using inquiry-based activities, ranging from fully open inquiry through more guided actions in both the classroom and lab. For this session, we are seeking participants to share examples of student-centered activities used at all levels, to suggest strategies for integrating inquiry-based learning into existing curricular frameworks, and to present evidence on the efficacy of inquiry-based activities on student learning.

18. Technology Integration in K-16 Geoscience Education.

Cosponsored by the National Association of Geoscience Teachers (NAGT).

Christine Witkowski, Middlesex Community College; Dawn Cardace, Univ. of Rhode Island.

Recent years have seen an explosion in the use of technology in geoscience education, including learning management and student response systems, animations and simulations, GIS and remote sensing, popular media, Web 2.0, and handheld devices. This session will explore the ways that technology is being used in classroom and field environments, as well as in distance learning and informal education, to enhance inquiry, improve comprehension and retention, and provide essential skills. We encourage participants to share examples of the successful integration of technology in teaching geoscience and to present evidence on the impact of the technology on student learning and skill development at all levels.

New 2YC Division of NAGT

2YC.....DID YOU KNOW that the NAGT now has a Two Year College Division? Finally there is a place to connect with other 2YC professionals! Your Newsletter editor has spent 40 years in the 2YC environment, and is thrilled to have this cohort recognized and organized by NAGT!

Two-year college faculty who are not yet members of NAGT are invited to join so that they can help shape the future of the division. Information on joining NAGT is available at <http://nagt.org/nagt/membership/index.html>. Anyone joining NAGT at this point will be member for all of calendar year 2012 and receive complimentary membership for the remainder of 2011. The division has decided that yearly dues will be \$7.00 and this amount will be added on to the dues for your membership type if you sign up to be a member of the division as well. Going forward, members will have the option of joining the division when they join or renew their NAGT membership.

Thank you to everyone who has made it possible to create this new division and we look forward to working with you to help improve the state of geoscience education at two-year colleges.

John McDaris -- Geoscience Web Content Developer - Science Education Resource Center (<http://serc.carleton.edu>) -- Carleton College, Northfield, MN 507-222-5749 - <http://serc.carleton.edu/serc/john.html>

Another message -- ANNOUNCING THE 2YC DIVISION and leadership opportunities.....
(this is a note from Sept. 6th, but very relevant)

The Geo2YC Organizational Committee is pleased to announce that the Geoscience at Two-Year Colleges (Geo2YC) Division has become the first professional interest division of the National Association of Geoscience Teachers (NAGT). The Geo2YC Division has received start-up funding from the NAGT Executive Committee to launch its mission to:

- 1) serve as a forum for exchanging information about 2YC geoscience programs
- 2) create a professional network for geoscience education at two-year colleges and other institutions with shared interests
- 3) sponsor NAGT 2YC activities and make recommendations to the NAGT Council
- 4) support and coordinate research on 2YC geoscience education
- 5) advocate for 2YC geoscience education within NAGT and other organizations

We welcome all NAGT members, including four-year college and university faculty with similar interests and concerns, to join the Geo2YC Division.

For Geo2YC to become a success we need your ideas and participation. One way to participate is to nominate yourself or a colleague to become an officer. Below are the primary duties and requirements for Geo2YC officers:

President - current or former 2YC professor serves 1-year term followed by 5 years on the Nominating and Election Committee

- a. Convenes and chairs Executive Board meetings
- b. Attends NAGT Council meetings or designates an alternate
- c. Writes Division newsletter column and annual report for NAGT

Vice-President - current or former 2YC professor serves 1 year-term before becoming President

- a. Participates in Executive Board meetings
- b. Coordinates with liaisons to NAGT sections

Secretary/treasurer - serves 3-year term

- a. Takes Executive Board meeting minutes
- b. Tracks budget and maintains financial records and bank account

Newsletter Editor - serves 3-year term

- a. Participates in Executive Board meetings
- b. Edits quarterly electronic newsletter and sends news to other media

Webmaster - serves 3-year term

- a. Participates in Executive Board meetings
- b. Maintains and updates Division website on NAGT server

Archivist - serves 3-year term

- a. Participates in Executive Board meetings
- b. Archives documents, records, and images, and maintains membership roster

Please send the names and contact information for officer nominations to me at rblodgett@austincc.edu by Thursday, September 15.

Membership sign-up, election of Geo2YC officers, and adoption of Division bylaws will occur later this month on the NAGT website.

[editor's note: this is arrive too late for this year, but submit your name for future consideration.]

We'd love to have you join Geo2YC! --- Regards, Bob Blodgett -- Robert H. Blodgett, Ph.D., P.G.

Chair, NAGT Geo2YC Organizational Committee and Councilor-at-Large
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