

## TEANJ TIDBITS

- n Begin planning now for the 2002 TEANJ Conference & Expo. It will be held on May 2 and 3 at the Marriott Glenpointe in Teaneck.
- n The 2001 NJEA Convention is being held November 8-9 in Atlantic City. Support TEANJ at this convention. Consult the schedule for times and locations of these workshops being given by TEANJ members: **Building Bridges: An Instruction Model for an Interdisciplinary Unit** by Dave Janosz; **Outwit, Out-design, Outlast? Survivor: The Technology Challenge** by Sherry Roses; **The Physics and Technology Connection** by Phil Paspalas and **The Reconstruction of America: A US History/Technology Joint Venture** by Trish Zaremba and Jim Stefankiewicz.
- n Each year TEANJ recognizes outstanding programs, teachers and administrators in Technology Education. Nominations for the 2001-02 Excellence Awards are being submitted to Steve Megna, TEANJ Awards Chair, Glen Meadow School, PO Box 516 Sammis Road, Vernon, NJ 07462. They are due by Jan. 15, 2002. Nomination forms can be downloaded from the TEANJ website at <http://www.teanj.org>.
- n Attend the International Technology Education Association Annual Conference in Columbus, Ohio which is being held from March 14-16, 2002.
- n International Technology Education Association (ITEA) introduced its new association logo. The new logo reflects the future of technology education in our human made world.



## INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY EDUCATOR AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The Technology Educators Association of New Jersey (TEANJ) is pleased to announce five winners of its 2001 Innovative Technology Educator awards. These awards, sponsored by the Martinson Family Foundation, recognize outstanding dedication to and innovative practice in the field of Technology Education with an unrestricted cash award of \$10,000 to each honoree.

John H. Martinson, managing partner of the Edison Venture fund in Lawrenceville and co-founder of the New Jersey Tech Council presented the awards on Monday, May 7 at the TEANJ Annual Conference and Expo awards banquet to: Jean Arden, Spruce Run Elementary School, Clinton; Phil Hammel, Hunterdon Central High School; Flemington; Bill Meyer, Kittatinny Regional High School, Hampton; Sherry Roses, Howell High School, Howell; and Frank Skowronski, Dickinson High School, Jersey City.

This program has been created to recognize educators who have demonstrated outstanding contributions and performance in the field of Technology Education and to advance professional activity in the emerging area of study. This program will foster the creation of a compendium of activities and curricula collected through the application process.

To be eligible for consideration for the award, a technology educator must demonstrate leadership and innovative practice in the area of Technology Education and be employed as a teacher or subject area supervisor, at the time of application, in a position related to Technology Education grades K-12.

TEANJ is a membership organization of nearly 1000 teachers, college students, and college professors in the field of Technology Education. Ironically, Technology Education is not a recognized area in the New Jersey Core Curriculum standards although there are national standards for the area of study. New Jersey Business has shown great interest in the area and several states in close proximity to New Jersey have adopted standards for Technology Education, such as New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Maryland, and Massachusetts.

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# President's Message

Fellow Technology Educator,

As we look forward to what could be a most crucial year for Technology Education (TE) in New Jersey, I must first extend the association's sincere thanks to Mark Wallace, our former Executive Director. Mark has given his heart and soul to the pursuit of TE for all students in New Jersey and the foundation he laid has put our area in the position to finally get the recognition it deserves. I would also like to thank Dave Janosz, our new Executive Director, for the outstanding job he is doing on our behalf. Dave is a true professional and the contacts he has made with key politicians along with strong business and industry connections have put TEANJ in a favorable position for the future.

The future of TE in New Jersey looks bright. The creation of a "Teacher of Technology Education" certificate is on the table in Trenton, with a draft of the license scheduled for release this fall. The Standards review process is in full swing, with members of TEANJ and The College of New Jersey's Technological Studies Department sitting on the Cross Content Workplace Readiness and Science standards review committees. TEANJ is also represented on Assemblyman Malone's Practical Arts Panel. We have tried to position ourselves to ensure the future of our area. There will be six membership workshops around the state this year, giving the membership an opportunity to see what is going on in various innovative programs and gain valuable professional hours. The Annual Conference will be held on May 2&3 at the Marriott Glen Pointe in Teaneck, NJ. Look for presentations by

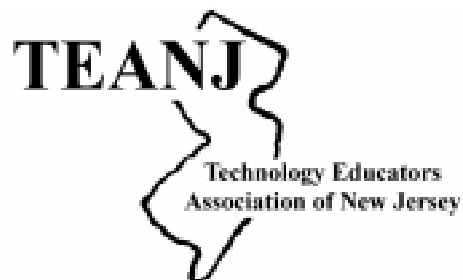
last year's Martinson "Innovative Technology Educator" award recipients. The award, in its second year, consists of a \$10,000.00 prize given to teachers annually. There will also be four presentations at the NJEA Convention in Atlantic City this November and three presentations by members of TEANJ at the ITEA Conference this March 14-16 in Columbus, Ohio. More information on all of these events will be outlined in future issues of "Interface".

Technology Education has survived in New Jersey without being officially recognized. This is a testament to the proven value of our area. Business and industry have thrown their full support behind the inclusion of TE in the educational program for all students in New Jersey public schools. It is not, however, just a matter of time before TE in New Jersey receives the recognition and inclusion it enjoys in most other states. This will take the concerted effort of all Technology Education professionals for this to happen. We all need to get involved. The easiest way to do this is to help increase the membership in TEANJ. If each of us were to get one fellow teacher to join TEANJ, we would double the number of active members, showing New Jersey that TE deserves a place in the education of all students.

Let's keep moving forward, together!

Sincerely,

Phil Paspalas – President TEANJ  
"Education for Innovation"



## From the Desk of the Executive Director

### The Story of the Innovative Technology Educator Awards

Last March, our longtime friends from the New Jersey Tech Council, Maxine Ballen and Saralee Pindar made an introduction that none of us will soon forget. I can recall being contacted by Saralee, asking me to send some background information about TEANJ to a man named John Martinson, managing partner of the Edison Venture Fund in Lawrenceville. Saralee had asked me to send him this information because Mr. Martinson may be interested in supporting an awards program for technology teachers in New Jersey. We truly had no idea what would become of this initial contact.

A short time later, Colleen Walsh Barnes, Saralee and I were sitting with John Martinson in the Edison Venture Fund conference room discussing the possibility of the creation of an awards program for our professionals. Mr. Martinson was in firm belief that teachers in our field should be rewarded for their efforts in the classroom and his vision was to create a Technology Education "Oscar" of sorts. After briefly discussing some points about the potential benefits of such a program, Mr. Martinson made an offer to fund a series of "Innovative Technology Educator" awards. In short, we learned that the Martinson Family foundation would fund the award in the amount of \$10,000 to each of five teachers for at least the next three years.

It was a surreal feeling as Colleen and I walked out to the parking lot after the meeting. We couldn't wait to get home so that we could contact the other board members to tell them the good news. The TEANJ executive board held an "emergency" meeting a few days later to discuss the development of the new

awards program. We all worked for several hours to put together the details and after discussing and developing some other particulars with Mr. Martinson, we were ready to announce the new award to the membership.

Perhaps you couldn't believe what you read in the letter we sent in early April announcing and describing this extra-ordinary new awards program. Perhaps you couldn't believe your eyes at the conference on May 7 as the first round of awards were presented to Jean Arden, Phil Hammel, Bill Meyer, Sherry Roses, and Frank Skowronski. To our knowledge, no group of teachers had previously been recognized in this manner to this extent anywhere in the United States and it was indeed a moment we will not soon forget.

We've all had the summer to ponder the potential impact of this program on the technology education profession. This program has been designed to grow the profession both amongst us and in the public eye. John Martinson is a true philanthropist and I know he has taken much pride in the first five recipients. I also know that technology teachers in this state will return the favor and show their thanks by doing their part in advancing the profession through the Innovative Technology Educator program. I hope that you all will consider making an application for the next round of awards to be presented at the May 2002 conference.

Dave Janosz

**"There is one thing stronger than all the armies in the world, and that is an idea whose time has come." - Victor Hugo**

## TEANJ 2001-02 Calendar of Events

### SEPTEMBER

9/14 Executive Board Mtg;  
5 pm

### OCTOBER

10/12 Executive Board Mtg.;  
5 pm

10/25 South Area  
Membership  
Workshop; 6 pm;  
Washington Twp. H.S.

10/28 Interface Deadline

### NOVEMBER

11/8-9 NJEA Convention:  
TEANJ Presentations

11/13 North Area Mtg &  
Workshop;  
Caldwell H.S.

11/15 Executive Board Mtg.;  
5 pm

### DECEMBER

12/7 Executive Board Mtg.:  
5 pm

12/9 Tentative Date  
Affiliates Council Meeting

### JANUARY

1/11 Executive Board Mtg.;  
5 pm

1/18 Interface Deadline

### FEBRUARY

2/15 Executive Board Mtg.:  
5 pm

### MARCH

3/1 Interface Deadline

3/15 Executive Board Mtg.;  
5 pm

3/14-  
3/16 ITEA Conference;  
Columbus, Ohio

### APRIL

4/12 Executive Board Mtg.:  
5 pm

### MAY

5/2-  
5/3 TEANJ Annual  
Conference & Expo;  
Marriott Glenpointe,  
Teaneck, NJ

Innovative Technology Educator Award  
Sponsored by  
The Martinson  
Family Foundation

Overview and Information

The Innovative Technology Educator Award honors five members of the Technology Educators Association of New Jersey for outstanding dedication and innovation in the field of Technology Education. This award, sponsored by the Martinson Family Foundation, recognizes extraordinary contributions and performance by educators with an unrestricted cash award of \$10,000 to each honoree.

Objectives

This program has been created to:

1. Recognize educators who have demonstrated outstanding contributions and performance in the field of Technology Education.
2. Advance professional activity in the field of Technology Education.

Benefits

Potential benefits of this program:

1. Increased recognition for the area of Technology Education and the education profession.
2. Opportunities for recognition of individual educators associated with the field of Technology Education.
3. The creation of a compendium of activities and curricula collected through the application process.

Eligibility

To be eligible for consideration for the award, a technology educator must:

1. Demonstrate leadership and innovative practice in the area of Technology Education.
2. Have been a paid professional member of TEANJ for at least the two full school years prior to the date of application.
3. Be employed as a teacher or subject area supervisor, at the time of application, in a position related to Technology Education grades K-12.

Application

To be considered for the 2002 award selection process, submit materials required no later than December 31, 2001. See page 5 for application details.

## TEANJ ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 2001 INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY EDUCATOR AWARD AT CONFERENCE

The 2001 awards were presented on Monday, May 7 at the TEANJ Annual Conference and Expo awards banquet. The recipients of the award are as follows:

**JEAN ARDEN - CLINTON TOWNSHIP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER**

Jean Arden, a thirty-year veteran teacher from Spruce Run Elementary School in Clinton Township, New Jersey has been named one of five recipients of a \$10,000 "Innovative Technology Educator" cash award.

In her application for the award, she submitted a student invention activity in which students participate in her second grade class. Through the activity students are challenged to create a device that will solve a technological problem.

**PHIL HAMMEL - HUNTERDON CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY TEACHER**

Phil Hammel, a twenty-nine year veteran teacher from Hunterdon Central High School in Flemington, New Jersey has been named one of five recipients of a \$10,000 "Innovative Technology Educator" cash award.

In his application for the award, he submitted an activity in which students participate in his Invention and Innovation, Materials & Processes and Introduction to Technology courses. In the activity students are challenged to design and make a device that will test the tensile strength of human hair.

**BILL MEYER - KITTATINNY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY TEACHER**

Bill Meyer, a twenty-seven year veteran teacher from Kittatinny Regional High School in Hampton, New Jersey has been named one of five recipients of a \$10,000 "Innovative Technology Educator" cash award.

Mr. Meyer submitted an activity in which students participate in his Problem Solving through Design and Computer Aided Design courses. In the activity students are challenged to design a device that will solve a technological problem.

**SHERRY ROSES - HOWELL HIGH SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY TEACHER**

Sherry Roses, a nineteen-year veteran teacher from Howell High School in Howell, New Jersey has been named one of five recipients of a \$10,000 "Innovative Technology Educator" cash award.

Through the application and selection process Ms. Roses demonstrated outstanding dedication to and innovative practice in the field of Technology Education, which is the primary requirement of the award criteria.

In her application for the award, she submitted a "Mission: Possible" activity in which students participate in her Technology Design Lab I&II courses. Based on the Mission: Impossible movies, students are challenged to create a device that will solve a given problem.

**FRANK SKOWRONSKI - JERSEY CITY TECHNOLOGY TEACHER**

Frank Skowronski, a twenty-five year veteran teacher from Dickinson High School in Jersey City, New Jersey has been named one of five recipients of a \$10,000 "Innovative Technology Educator" cash award.

In his application for the award, he submitted an activity in which students participate in his Invention and Innovation and Technology Design Lab courses. In the activity students are challenged to research a historical inventor and present the development of their invention to the rest of the class.



## 2001-2002 TSA Calendar

Date: Monthly  
Event: State Officers Meeting  
Place: College of New Jersey

Date: October 5-7  
Event: Directions 2001,  
National Leadership  
Conference  
Place: Atlanta, Georgia

Date: October 24  
Event: Technological Studies  
Professional Conference  
Middle School TSA  
Session  
Place: College of New Jersey

Date: November 20  
Event: State Leadership  
Conference  
Place: College of New Jersey

Date: March 19  
Event: State Conference  
Place: College of New Jersey

Date: June 24-28  
Event: National TSA  
Conference  
Place: Denver, Colorado

For More Information  
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National TSA at  
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or contact:  
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The College of New Jersey  
Tech. Studies/Armstrong Hall  
Ewing, NJ 08628-0718  
(W) 609/771-3339 or  
(H) 609/936-1432  
EMAIL: [harms@tcnj.edu](mailto:harms@tcnj.edu)



# Technology Student Association TSA Update

## Why Join TSA?

The Technology Student Association is the only student organization devoted exclusively to the needs of technology education students. During the last school year there were 21 TSA chapters in New Jersey. We need to grow, especially at the middle school level. TSA activities generate enthusiasm and help build enrollment in technology education programs.

An important benefit of TSA membership is the inspiration and enthusiasm that students gain from receiving recognition for applying their knowledge. Other benefits include the opportunity to:

- \* work closely as part of a team
- \* compete on state and national levels
- \* develop leadership skills
- \* travel to organized meetings
- \* meet other students with similar interests from all over the United States
- \* receive recognition through TSA's honor society, scholarships, and achievement programs.

## NJ TSA Staff

Henry Harms is now serving as state advisor. In addition to TSA, Henry is developing pre-engineering teaching materials as part of the High Tech Workforce Grant at the College of New Jersey. His background includes teaching technology education in New York and South Carolina, teacher training, serving on the executive boards of state technology education associations in both states and coordinating the 2001 South Carolina TSA Conference.

Sherry Roses will serve as the Southern Regional Coordinator and Bill Meyer will be the Northern Regional Coordinator. Alison Goeke is our administrative assistant and graduate

student at TCNJ. Gary Bell will be available during the coming year to provide for a smooth transition. We appreciate the work done by Gary and extend best wishes as he plans to spend more time with his family.

## Curricular Resources Guides

Every two years TSA's competitive events are revised. The 2000-2002 High School Curricular Resources Guide (CRG) will provide the guidelines for our State Conference events. The 2002-2003 middle school CRG is now called Middle School Technology Activities. It features four new events, correlations to the Standards for Technological Literacy, and provides great ideas for classroom activities. Copies of both publications and other TSA materials are available at the TCNJ Technological Studies Professional Conference in October.

# TECHNOLOGY HAPPENINGS AROUND THE STATE:

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The COLLEGE of NEW JERSEY's 15th Annual Professional Conference and the 2001-2002 Professional Workshop Series. Topics include proDESKTOP 3-D CAD/CAM, Web Design, Robotics, Innovative Programs and more. Some events are free.

Contact Dr. John Karsnitz at (609)771-2543 or email: [karsnitz@tcnj.edu](mailto:karsnitz@tcnj.edu) for more information.

## COMPETITIONS

Panasonic Industrial Company in cooperation with NJIT and Liberty Science Center present the **12th Annual Design Challenge 2002**. For more information refer to the website at [www.panasonic.com/creativdesign](http://www.panasonic.com/creativdesign) or contact Ms. Donna L. Prawetz, at (201)348-5361 or email: [prawetzd@panasonic.com](mailto:prawetzd@panasonic.com).

## EXHIBITIONS

The science and technology of ordinary things come to life in an exhibition at **THE MORRIS MUSEUM** from February 5-April 28, 2001. **HOW THINGS WORK** is an exhibition of 21 interesting displays that demonstrate the inner workings of everyday devices. The museum is also sponsoring a series of Professional Development Workshops on Technology Education in conjunction with this exhibition. Visit the website [www.morrismuseum.org](http://www.morrismuseum.org) for more information.

**THE INTERFACE IS LOOKING FOR ITEMS OF INTEREST TO PUBLISH IN THIS SECTION. PLEASE SUBMIT ANY TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION EVENTS OF INTEREST THAT ARE HAPPENING THROUGHOUT THE STATE TO THE INTERFACE EDITOR.**

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# IMPACTS

## THE INVENTION STATE

Harry T. Roman, PSE&G Co.

Let's start this article off with a question. How many of you knew that one of the nicknames for New Jersey is.... The Invention State? Well, it is true. Every year, New Jersey regularly ranks up there in the top 5 or 10 states to receive the most patents issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. And New Jersey was home to the world's greatest inventor, Thomas Edison.

I have had the honor of being involved with the New Jersey Inventors Hall of Fame since its inception in 1987 and every fall our selection committee convenes to select candidates for induction into the Hall of Fame. Through this unique and nationally recognized organization, I have come to know many fellow inventors and learned firsthand the tales of others struggling to bring new inventions to the marketplace. I have had the opportunity to learn much about New Jersey invention folklore.

There is one common theme I have heard many times as Hall of Fame awardees accept their certificates and medals of accomplishment at our annual induction dinner in February. These proud inventors have worked very long and hard on their ideas, trying to make something useful for other people; and in many cases, they don't receive much public acknowledgment of their work. I can tell you I have seen grown men and women cry when they receive their awards because it means so much to them to have someone thank them for their work. This state is blessed to have so many talented, and dedicated inventors.

Right here in New Jersey, inventors have produced such complex things as the transistor, the cellular phone, the hovercraft, and FM radio; not to mention such wonderfully endearing products like the ice cream cone, the golf tee, and the modern day catcher's face mask. There seems to be no end to the broad base of interest and inventive spirit in our state's invention community.

So,...why not turn you students loose in search of New Jersey's inventors? Now, I am not talking about Thomas Edison. He is so well known as to be a subject all to himself. After all, the man has his name on 1096 patents, a feat that has never been equaled. The best I have seen in modern times is close to 600 patents by an individual. Even though Edison was my boyhood hero, I think it would be better to study him in class as a separate topic. What I am proposing is for the students to learn about the many other inventors who call and have called New Jersey home; and who have made all sorts of contributions to our communities.

There are a number of ways to approach this in class. Perhaps one way is to look at

inventions specific to a certain type of industry like electronics, medicine, transportation,...etc. Or maybe you might want to break the whole problem down into a time line and look at various historical periods in the state, and try to characterize what you think are great inventive spurts in the state's history. You could assign this work individually or in teams. You might even let the students themselves choose the invention topics to be investigated. There could be some interesting lessons learned about minority inventors, women inventors, and immigrant inventors who came here during the great waves of immigration to our shores.

While the students are researching their subject area, they could be writing away for materials, searching the Internet, reading historical accounts of the state's technological development and communicating with leading companies that employ engineers and inventors. There is much written on the subject of invention.

Students can pay particular attention to the process that inventors use when working on their ideas-a process that probably has not changed too dramatically from revolutionary times right on down to today. Have the students identify the specific steps within the inventive process and show the relationship of the various steps to each other. Moreover, students can also compile the profile of a typical inventor - studying what characterizes and motivates them, how they think and use creative techniques to spur their work, how they deal with failure, and how they sell their ideas to investors. Try and list the variety of skills that an inventor would need to be in business.

Why not invite an inventor(s) into the classroom to talk about how he or she invents things and how they select things that need to be invented? Let your students see firsthand that inventors are down-to-earth regular people. So often, a folklore has grown up around inventors that portrays them as "nerds" and socially inept; and I am afraid that at our TV show and movies have not done much to dispel this foolish myth. Believe me, inventing is hard work, and meeting the people who do this hard work every day can be eye opening. Many inventions take 3-5 years or longer to develop and then

another 2 years or so to patent. Inventing is not for those who have to see instant gratification. Invention is sacrificing one's time in the present for rewards down the road.

As long as you are studying inventors, take the time to learn the technical language. Study how patents are granted, how they are written, how long they are valid, where patent law came from, and how the Patent Office works. Study some real patents in the classroom. Read both old patents and recent ones to see how the language may have changed over the years. Observe the writing style and the way the information is presented in the patent. Perhaps the students might try and invent something and write their own patent for it to see how difficult it is to capture the essence of what it is they are trying to explain. Write away to the Patent Office and learn all about the history of this very important part of our original constitution. The Patent Office is as old as our country. That should tell you how important the founding fathers thought it would be to the infant country they had fashioned. And they were not wrong. We enjoy the highest standard of living on the planet because we have a vibrant and healthy patent system. There is also an excellent Internet website for the Patent Office - visit it.

So the next time someone asks you what state you are from,...tell them- the Invention State. Gee maybe it should say that on our license plates!

Be well.



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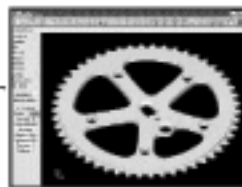
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