

VSTA Newsletter

Fall 2009 Volume 24 , Number 1



Vermont Science Teachers Association/ <http://www.uvm.edu/vsta/>
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Come Join Us
VSTA Annual Meeting
Thursday, October 29th
Lucinda's Italian Restaurant
276 N. Main Street
Barre, VT

5:00 Social Hour/Cash Bar
Election of Officers
6:00 Dinner
RSVP by October 28

Cassie Major at majorinvt@aol.com or 476-6617 ext 206



VSTA 2008 Annual Dinner

What Have You Done to Celebrate The Year of Science?

Were you aware 2009 had been declared the YEAR OF SCIENCE? This declaration was designed to help the general public learn more about this year –long national event in Science. Every month throughout the year, the web site has featured a new theme in which organizational leaders in that discipline share the excitement of their science. The web site also has provided engaging resources and highlights FREE events connected to the monthly theme such as science cafes, festivals, open houses, blogs, podcasts, and school visits by scientists to share their work.

Earth Sciences are featured during the month of October. So we encourage you to visit www.yearofscience2009.org Connect to a blog about Geosciences and Planet Earth with Lee Allison, Arizona state geologist, who says, "One of the core issues that the Year of Science addresses is why science matters, so it seems apropos to start off my guest posts for October's theme of Geosciences and Planet Earth with the question, "why do the Geosciences matter?"



Christa Duthie-Fox Awarded 2008 PAESMT

Christa Duthie-Fox, former President of VSTA, received a surprise call this summer announcing she was the latest state recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Math Teaching for 2008. At Charlotte Central School since 1994, Christa is currently a fifth and sixth Grade teacher with responsibility for science as well as mathematics.



Christa is described as having a rare gift for conveying complex concepts to young students in a fun and exciting way. She plans each unit and lesson extensively and thoughtfully and uses her scientific knowledge to construct developmentally appropriate learning experiences for her students. Ms. Duthie-Fox uses many different strategies in the context of scientific inquiry, including whole-group instruction, small-group work, technology, and expert presenters.

Recognized by Who's Who Among America's Teachers in 2002, 2005, and 2006 and a member of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, Ms. Duthie-Fox has actively pursued professional development through coursework, meetings, and training. She has participated in the Vermont Science Network Meeting, Chittenden South Supervisory Union programs, and classes offered by The Vermont Institutes and the Vermont Department of Education. She also facilitates Project MICRO, a microscopy outreach program from the University of Vermont, and is considered an active professional who makes a positive contribution to her profession.

Ms. Duthie-Fox has a B.S. in animal science from the University of Vermont and an M.S. in food science with a minor in microbiology from Cornell University. She has an M.Ed. in curriculum and instruction from the University of Vermont, where she also completed a post-baccalaureate teacher certification program. Ms. Duthie-Fox is certified in kindergarten through sixth grade elementary education and grades 7-12 general science.

In receiving the award, Christa responded by saying, *"This is a defining moment in my teaching career and in my life, to be recognized for something that I do every day, something that defines who I am and what I value. This is not only a recognition and celebration of me as a teacher, but also recognition of my state, my school, my students, the town I live in, my friends, and my family. This is big--it's the ultimate recognition for a science and math teacher; receiving this award is an honor beyond what I could have ever imagined for myself."*

Congratulations, Christa!