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## Want to get your MSTA News faster?

Join the [MSTA Listserv](#) or the [Mississippi Science Teachers](#) Facebook page. All of the information in the Internet Resource section of this newsletter was gleaned from these two sources. Go to the instructions on joining the listserv by clicking on the links above.

THANKS TO ALL WHO  
PRESENTED AT THE  
MSTA FALL  
CONFERENCE.  
We can't do the conference  
without you.

A big THANK YOU to the Russell C. Davis Planetarium for our Sunday evening special viewing of their programs!

Another big THANK YOU to the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science for hosting our Monday night reception and auction!

## **Presidential Post:**

Thank you for a wonderful 2014 Mississippi Science Teacher's Convention. The MSTA Board did an excellent job preparing and planning. A special thanks to all of you who presented sessions. Your participation makes the conference great.

We thank the Russell C. Davis Planetarium and the Natural Science Museum for their support of MSTA. All of us will recall the "fire" at the Natural Science Museum and the efficient way the staff moved our reception outside. The auction successfully added money to our scholarship funds.

NSTA President (2014-2015) Dr. Juliana Texley was complimentary of our convention. We appreciate her attendance.

Each of us returned to our classrooms rejuvenated, ready to use the information gathered at the convention. Most importantly visiting with friends, the opportunity to make new friends and to make professional connections encourages all of us.

**SAVE THE DATE** for the 2015 Convention: October 25-27, 2015, at the Marriott, Jackson, MS. Begin thinking of sessions that you would like to present.

Please encourage other science teachers to join MSTA and to attend the 2015 Convention:  
<http://www.ms-scienceteachers.org/default.htm>

Please nominate teachers for the MSTA awards. The online form is on the website at: [Online Award Nomination](#)

These awards recognize excellence in the classroom from elementary through college. There is also an award for those that are informal science teachers. Teachers must be nominated and must complete and return the application to win the awards. The process begins with their nomination. For those who prefer to print and mail a nomination, the form is found on the website: [Printable Award Nomination form.](#)

Explore the website and enjoy the resources that are provided there and in the MSTA wikispace.

Whether you are a new teacher or nearing retirement, I encourage you to keep trying new ways to engage students so that their curiosity will lead them to explore, question, and become the scientists of tomorrow.

Sincerely, *Ann Huber, President*

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## **President Elect Post:**

I appreciate the confidence that the membership of the Mississippi Science Teachers Association has placed in me in electing me President-Elect. As teachers we are never finished products. We must strive to continue to be lifelong learners. Sharing our ideas and methodologies with our colleagues is a wonderful way to maintain our enthusiasm for promoting learning in the classroom. Being an active member of M.S.T.A. provides an opportunity for sharing and learning among the membership.

Through my years of working as a science educator at the high school, community college, and senior college levels, I have realized that each level of science instruction from K-12 to the university level possesses unique needs. M.S.T.A. has served the needs of science instructors at each of these levels admirably through the years. I look forward to working with the membership of our organization in the coming years to hopefully enhance what we have already accomplished and explore new ways to acquaint science educators all over our state with how our organization can benefit them as members. I have the hope that M.S.T.A. can become even more effective in serving the needs of science teachers at all levels.

Sincerely, *Johnny Mattox President Elect*

## MSTA Award Winner 2014



**Front: Kristen Sheverly Barnes, Left to Right: Tammie Franklin, Noel Lamey, Dr. John Wiginton, and Shelia Smith. The 2014 Mississippi Science Award Winners are:**

### **Herb Handley Outstanding New Teacher**

Kristen Sheverly Barnes  
Lanier High School  
Jackson, MS

### **Outstanding Middle School Science Teacher**

Tammie Franklin  
Yazoo County Middle School  
Yazoo City, MS

### **Fred W. Brown Outstanding High School Science Teacher**

Noel Lamey

Pascagoula High School  
Pascagoula, MS

### **Outstanding College Science Teacher**

Dr. John Wiginton  
University of Mississippi  
Oxford, MS

### **Outstanding Informal Science Educator**

Sheila Smith  
Science Consultant  
Madison, MS



**Mississippi’s Outstanding Biology Teacher Awardee, Will Dyson pictured with Betsy Sullivan and Shelia Smith.**



## **Scholarship and Grant Opportunity**

### **Otis Allen Criteria**

1. Request a scholarship application (national or regional) from the scholarship chairperson).
  2. Requests must be received two months prior to the national convention or regional meeting to be attended.
  3. A person may receive a scholarship once in three to five years.
  4. Earliest application received will receive first consideration.
  5. Each recipient will receive scholarship monies as partial expense reimbursement after submitting a copy of their registration and a letter signed by his/her principal stating that the recipient attended the meeting.
- To request a scholarship application, contact the chairman of the scholarship committee. Send the request to the following: Dr. John Ammons, 209 E. Gresham St., Indianola, MS 38751, Email: [jammons@msdelta.edu](mailto:jammons@msdelta.edu) or [jammons53@hotmail.com](mailto:jammons53@hotmail.com)

### **R. C. Roberts Grant Form**

The R. C. Roberts Fund was initiated to honor Mr. Roberts, a long-time science supervisor in the Mississippi Department of Education and assist teachers in developing outdoor classrooms, nature centers, or nature trails at their respective schools. Maximum funding that can be obtained by one teacher from one school at a particular time is \$100. Applications for funding must show that additional funds from sources other than R. C. Roberts have been obtained to support the proposed project. This may be “in kind” support as well as monetary. Individuals who receive support from the R. C. Roberts Funds may apply for additional funding provided a period of three years has elapsed since the original funding was granted.

### **Guidelines for the R. C. Roberts Fund**

Individuals interested in applying for funding should get an application form from the Newsletter or request an application form from the Executive Officer or President of the Mississippi Science Teachers’ Association. The completed application must be attached to the proposal and returned to the Executive Officer. The Executive Officer will assemble a committee of at least three individuals involved in science education who will examine the proposal and recommend funding status. The decision of the review committee to fund or reject the proposal is final.

#### **R. C. Roberts Grant Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal: \_\_\_\_\_

1. How long have you been at the school? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What do you plan to do with the money? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. List the materials and cost of supplies for this project. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Where is this project located in relationship to the school? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Do you have the support of the principal? \_\_\_\_\_ other teachers? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, name/s. \_\_\_\_\_

6. What kind of monetary or “in kind” support do you have? List. If “in kind” support is provided, estimate its monetary value. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Complete the grant form and attach the proposal and return to: Bess Moffatt, MSTA Executive Officer, 1510 Oldfield Road, Gautier, MS 39553

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## Problem Attic a Wealth of Questions to Use in Your Teaching

Problem-Attic was updated just before Thanksgiving—and there’s much more to come before the winter holidays.

Here are the recent changes:

- **CCSS Math database revised** for grades 6–8 and high school. It has about 1500 new questions, and close to 25% of the database is now free-response or multi-step questions and tasks. [details](#) [newest samples](#)
- **Play Area enlarged** with 2000 questions from CCSS Math. They’re free and for real classroom use. Check out the [design features](#) such as odd/even pairing, and try all of Problem-Attic’s editing, scoring and [export options](#).
- **NY Regents database is updated** through June 2014. We added about 1400 questions from 25 exams for math, science, social studies and ELA.
- **New Format options** for problems-per-page, workspace, and multiple-choice answers. For screenshots, help with the Format options, and other news, please click [here](#).

Help us spread the word: Problem-Attic is not just a “test generator.” It’s a great tool for blended learning, and it **makes other classroom technology much more useful**. If you haven’t created a slideshow, delivered questions to student devices, or used the scoring app, please don’t miss out. In the Play Area you can [try all the technology features](#).



Problem-Attic will continue to grow and take on new capabilities this school year. You can look forward to document-sharing, updates for state-released questions, more academic competitions, and an API for connecting to other programs. Please watch your inbox for announcements.

Thank you for using Problem-Attic and telling others about it!

—The Problem-Attic Team at EducAide Software

web: [www.problem-attic.com](http://www.problem-attic.com)

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## Evolution in Context for Teachers

This spring, I'm offering the online course **Evolution in Context for Teachers** (81.547) through the University of Massachusetts' Continuing Education. I'd like more science teachers in to know of this opportunity. If possible, could you please distribute the information to the members of the Mississippi Association of Science Teachers listserv or Newsletter?

Please note that NEA members receive:

- 10% off tuition on the partner programs listed below.
- Waiver of the \$200 new student fee.

Interested teachers can register for [here](#) or contact me directly with questions.

Thanks, David Lustick, PhD

### [Evolution in Context for Teachers 81.547](#)

This course empowers life science teachers of all levels with the skills and knowledge to more effectively foster student understanding of evolution by natural selection. By exploring evolution in multiple contexts, the Darwinian framework for how life evolved (and continues to evolve) are presented in an interactive and engaging manner. Teachers learn to use virtual resources to enhance their students' learning while digging deep into some of the most profound and interesting science conducted in the last 100 years. Evolution in Context makes the science of evolution come alive in a real and relevant manner. From the historical and scientific to the environmental and political, teachers will learn about evolution in ways they never imagined.

David Lustick, Ph.D., University of Massachusetts Lowell, Graduate School of Education, 530 O'Leary, 61 Wilder Street, Lowell, MA 01854, Voice: [978-934-4644](tel:978-934-4644), Fax: [978-934-3005](tel:978-934-3005), email: [David.Lustick@uml.edu](mailto:David.Lustick@uml.edu)

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## Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST)

The National Science Foundation is currently accepting nominations and applications for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) program. The PAEMST is the highest recognition that a kindergarten through 12th grade mathematics or science teacher may receive for outstanding teaching in the United States. The National Science Foundation administers PAEMST on behalf of The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. This program recognizes teachers for their contributions to teaching and learning and their ability to help students make progress in mathematics and science. Awardees serve as models for their colleagues, inspiration to their communities, and leaders in the improvement of mathematics and science education.

To apply, teachers must first be nominated for the award. Principals, teachers, parents, students, or members of the general public may nominate a teacher by completing a nomination form. Teachers may also self-nominate to apply. Once nominated, teachers will receive an invitation to begin the application process. The 2015 Awards will honor mathematics and science (including computer

science) teachers working in grades 7-12. Online nomination eligibility and forms are available at [www.paemst.org](http://www.paemst.org).

Please consider nominating an outstanding 7-12 grade teacher or applying for this prestigious award and/or share the PAEMST information with your colleagues.

For more information, contact Lakechia Grant at the Mississippi Department of Education in the Office of Professional Development at [lgrant@mde.k12.ms.us](mailto:lgrant@mde.k12.ms.us) or [601-359-2586](tel:601-359-2586).

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## COME TO TEACHER TRAINING AT CDC!

2015 Science Ambassador Workshop July 20 – 24, 2015

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) invites middle- and high-school teachers to attend the CDC Science Ambassador 2015 Workshop. The free\* 5-day professional development workshop focuses on training teachers to use examples from public health in the classroom to illustrate basic math and science principles and concepts. The workshop will be held from July 20-24, 2015 at CDC headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia.

Throughout the week, CDC scientists present information on current public health topics and collaborate with participants to develop challenging and innovative public health-based lesson plans that align with Next Generation Science Standards. As part of the Science Ambassador 2015 Workshop, participants will have the opportunity to:

- Attend seminars on current public health topics presented by CDC scientists
- Collaborate with CDC scientists to develop lessons plans based on public health science topics that will be published on CDC's website
- Tour CDC's state-of-the-art headquarters, including the Emergency Operations Center and the David J. Sencer CDC Museum
- Earn 4.0 Continuing Education Units (CEUs)
- Expand professional networks

\*There is no charge for this workshop but participants are responsible for their own transportation, lodging and meals.

To be considered for participation, please e-mail the following materials to [scienceambassador@cdc.gov](mailto:scienceambassador@cdc.gov) by April 15, 2015:

- Curriculum vitae or résumé
- Recommendation letter from your school's principal, department chair, or a colleague.
- Personal statement (500 words or less) explaining your interest in the workshop, your expectations of the workshop, and how the workshop aligns with your teaching goals

If you have any questions about this workshop or any of our other materials or activities, please visit the website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/scienceambassador/> and/or to contact us by e-mail at [scienceambassador@cdc.gov](mailto:scienceambassador@cdc.gov).

We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Kelly L. Cordeira, MPH, 1600 Clifton Road MS E92 | Atlanta, GA 30333, Office: [404-498-6359](tel:404-498-6359) | E-mail: [scienceambassador@cdc.gov](mailto:scienceambassador@cdc.gov)



## Global Field Program Master's Degree Accepting applications for 2015

OXFORD, Ohio (October 1, 2014) - Applications are now being accepted until January 28 for 2015 field courses and the Global Field Program master's degree, which offers groundbreaking courses in 13 countries throughout Africa, Asia, Australia, and the Americas. (See [http://earthexpeditions.org/14-15\\_news](http://earthexpeditions.org/14-15_news).)

Earth Expeditions graduate courses and the Global Field Program (GFP) master's degree bring together graduate students, scientists, educators and community leaders at critical conservation sites worldwide. Sites for 2015 include the Amazon, Australia, Baja, Belize, Borneo, Costa Rica, Guyana, Hawai'i, India, Kenya, Mongolia, Namibia and Thailand.

Tuition for seven graduate credits and all basic in-country expenses are covered in the course costs, which are reduced because of support from Miami University. Accepted students are responsible for airfare.

Earth Expeditions and the GFP can be completed part-time from anywhere in the United States or abroad. They are open to educators and other professionals who hold a bachelor's degree from any discipline. For more information and to apply, please visit:

Earth Expeditions: [http://earthexpeditions.org/14-15\\_news](http://earthexpeditions.org/14-15_news)

Global Field Program: [http://gfp.miamioh.edu/14-15\\_news](http://gfp.miamioh.edu/14-15_news)

Applicants may be interested in Project Dragonfly's additional master's degree, the Advanced Inquiry Program (AIP), co-delivered with premier learning institutions in select U.S. cities. Current AIP sites are located in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Chicago, Denver, New York, Phoenix, San Diego, and Seattle. For more information, please visit [http://aip.miamioh.edu/14-15\\_news](http://aip.miamioh.edu/14-15_news).

Project Dragonfly reaches millions of people each year through inquiry-driven learning media, public exhibits and graduate programs worldwide. Dragonfly is housed at Miami University, a state university in Oxford, Ohio, established in 1809 and listed as one of the eight original Public Ivies.

CONTACT: Mary Jo Lahrman

Project Dragonfly, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio 45056

[513.529.8573](tel:513.529.8573), [lahrmamj@miamioh.edu](mailto:lahrmamj@miamioh.edu)

## ERC WORKSHOPS AT STENNIS SPACE CENTER

The NASA Educator Resource Center (ERC) at Stennis Space Center announces professional development workshops for educators. K-12 teachers can receive CEUs for these free workshops. Home school educators are welcome, too! Topics include physical science, life science, biology, mathematics, technology, engineering and much more. Workshops are available for all grade levels and are held on-site at Stennis Space Center and INFINITY Science Center.

For more information, visit the Stennis Education Web site at <http://education.ssc.nasa.gov/workshops.asp> or contact the NASA ERC by phone at [228\) 533-9025 x 322](tel:2285339025) or [228\) 688-3338](tel:2286883338) or by email to [ssc-nasaerc@mail.nasa.gov](mailto:ssc-nasaerc@mail.nasa.gov).



**Subject: \$1000 Scholarships for Amazon Rainforest PD Workshop**

Educator Academy in the Amazon Rainforest + Machu Picchu

The July 1-11, 2015 Educator Academy in the Amazon Rainforest of Peru is a cross-curricular professional development workshop for K-12 formal and informal educators to learn and use:

- 21st Century Instruction: 5E Lesson Design ~ Inquiry-Based Exploration ~ STEM
- Inquiry Protocols & Resources: Project Learning Tree ~ Cornell Lab of Ornithology ~ & More!
- Global and Cultural Perspectives: Service Learning ~ Sustainability ~ Global Education

Join Al Stenstrup, Project Learning Tree (PLT); Lilly Briggs (Cornell Lab of Ornithology), Christa Dillabaugh, Amazon Rainforest Workshops; and Dr. David Pearson, Wildlife Travellers' Guide to Peru; and work side-by-side with scientists Dr. Steve Madigosky, Widener University; and Randy Morgan, Curator/Entomologist, Cincinnati Zoo as you:

- Participate in citizen science projects and inquiry based field studies on a 1/4-mile Rainforest Canopy walkway in one of the most biologically diverse environments on the planet.
- Spend a day in an Amazon village as you explore the complexities of sustainability and the role of education in creating a sustainable future for Amazon children.
- Work with fellow educators to explore strategies for using the Amazon as a vehicle for incorporating STEM education, inquiry-based learning, and sustainability science education into your classroom.

PLT Certification, BirdSleuth resources and 50 ASU PD Hours included. Academic Credit and Machu Picchu Extension optional. \$1000 scholarship deadline March 1, 2015. Program cost is \$1240 + air for scholarship recipients. Space is limited! Register early to secure your spot!

Get the details and download a syllabus and scholarship application

at: <http://www.amazonworkshops.com/educator-academy.html>

Contact [christa@amazonworkshops.com](mailto:christa@amazonworkshops.com) or [1-800-431-2624](tel:1-800-431-2624) for more information.

***Gray Whales: Celebration of Conservation Program***

Mississippi Science Teachers Association Members,

How would your elementary school science teachers like whale experts to share their daily research directly with their students? The Southwest Fisheries Science Center-NOAA and WhaleTimes, Inc. (nonprofit) have teamed up once again to offer classrooms the ***Gray Whales: Celebration of Conservation*** program. The *Celebration of Conservation* brings gray whale research into your classrooms in a unique and inviting way and creates a connection between students, animals and the scientists who study them.

The story of the eastern gray whales, from endangered to thriving, is a beacon of hope for other conservation efforts. Not so long ago, people feared gray whales would become extinct. But today, due to protective measures and research, the population so healthy the United States removed it from the endangered species list.

Scientific efforts continue to keep the population remains healthy and strong. Find out this spring. A select number of classrooms from around the country will "virtually" join Southwest Fisheries Science Center-NOAA scientists at the gray whale field (research) station. The scientists correspond with classes through daily emails, Q&A, and photographs. Students will discover more about gray whales, gray whale research, and the researchers themselves.

This program meets science standards, Common Core, STEM, ocean literacy standards as well as other standards. It is an excellent culmination of a classroom's science or conservation curriculum.

Here are the specifics:

Dates: April 2015 (exact week TBD soon. Based on the timing of the whales' migration)

Grades: 3rd to 6th grade

Cost: **Free with scholarship** (funded by grant and donated time and effort by WhaleTimes and SWFSC scientists)

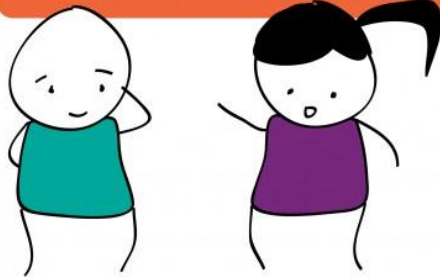
Scholarship: Classrooms chosen based on the teacher's submission of a short [500 word maximum] description of how the teacher will incorporate gray whales into science, conservation, or other curricula. (Note: To allow this opportunity at several schools, there are a limited number of enrollments per school. Please check with WhaleTimes before enrolling more than two classes.)

For more information or to register visit the WhaleTimes website: [www.whaletimes.org](http://www.whaletimes.org).

# Questions a Critical Thinker Asks

## What's Happening?

Gather the basic information and begin to think of questions



## Why Is It Important?

Ask yourself why it's significant and whether or not you agree



## What Don't I See?

Is there anything important missing?



## How Do I Know?

Ask yourself where the information came from and how it was constructed



## Who Is Saying It?

What's the position of the speaker and what is influencing them?



If only time were relative...



## What Else? What If?

What other ideas exist and are there other possibilities?



## Joke Corner:

### JUST KIDDING



## Jokes for Nerds: How Many Will You Get?

1. I'm reading a great book on anti-gravity. I can't put it down.
2. I have a new theory on inertia but it doesn't seem to be gaining momentum.
3. Why can't atheists solve exponential equations? Because they don't believe in higher powers.
4. Schrodinger's cat walks into a bar. And doesn't.
5. Do you know the name Pavlov? It rings a bell.
6. A group of protesters in front of a physics lab:  
"What do we want?"  
"Time travel"  
"When do we want it?"  
"Irrelevant."
7. What does a subatomic duck say? Quark!
8. A neutron walks into a bar and asks how much for a beer. Bartender replies "For you, no charge".
9. Two atoms are walking along. One of them says:  
"Oh, no, I think I lost an electron."  
"Are you sure?"  
"Yes, I'm positive."
10. An optimist sees a glass half full. A pessimist sees it half empty. An engineer sees it twice as large as it needs to be.

## **Pinterest:**

**These Pages are Pages of different science teacher that might have material you can use in your classroom.**

<http://www.pinterest.com/aletasullivan/school/>

<http://www.pinterest.com/jaguarteacher/biology/>

<http://www.pinterest.com/bdjh99/science/>

<http://www.pinterest.com/chanherch/chemistry/>

<http://www.pinterest.com/debdiuncan/for-school/>



## Density Rainbow:

Students create a layered column using density:

URL: <http://www.candyexperiments.com/2009/09/density-rainbow.html>

### Skittles Method

What you need:

- Five small cups for mixing
- A clear glass
- A wide spoon
- Skittles
- 2 red
- 4 orange
- 6 yellow
- 8 green
- 10 purple

To do:

1. Fill five cups with 2 Tbsp of water each.
2. Dissolve the Skittles, each color in a separate cup. If the candy is not dissolving, stir frequently or heat the water. (The waxy film floating on the surface can be removed or ignored; it won't affect the experiment.)
3. Pour the purple water into the clear glass.
4. Hold the spoon upside-down over the purple water, with the tip of the spoon touching the edge of the bowl above the waterline. Slowly pour the green water down the back of the spoon, so that the green water does not mix in with the purple. Instead, it should float on top.

Alternative method: use a small syringe to make the layers. Suction up the green water, hold the tip of the syringe against the edge of the glass, and gently squeeze the water out to make the layer.)

5. Repeat with the other colors, and admire your rainbow.

### Nerds Method

Fill four cups each with 1/4 cup warm water. Dissolve 1 teaspoon red Nerds, 2 teaspoons orange Nerds, 3 teaspoons yellow Nerds, and four teaspoons green Nerds (or whatever colors you like). Pour the rainbow as above.

What's happening:

Since the water with less candy is less dense, it floats on top of the denser layer like oil on water. Unlike oil and water, your sugar water layers will eventually mix together, muddying the color. So admire it while it lasts!

## 2013-2014 MSTA Board of Directors

### Officers

**President** Ann Huber ([phy2chem@yahoo.com](mailto:phy2chem@yahoo.com))  
**President-Elect** Dr. Johnny Mattox ([jmattox@bmc.edu](mailto:jmattox@bmc.edu))  
**Immediate Past President & Long Range Goals** Dr. Betsy Sullivan ([bsullivan@madison-schools.com](mailto:bsullivan@madison-schools.com))  
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**Convention Program** Mr. Ken Wester ([kwester@ilstu.edu](mailto:kwester@ilstu.edu))  
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**Evaluations** Dr. Burnette Hamil ([bhamil67@att.net](mailto:bhamil67@att.net))  
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**Legislative Representative** Dr. Angela Bedenbaugh ([Bedenbaugh.Angela@gmail.com](mailto:Bedenbaugh.Angela@gmail.com))  
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**Receptions** Lillie Akin-Knighton ([sci4me@aol.com](mailto:sci4me@aol.com))

**MSTA on the Internet:** Join us at the **MSTA Listserv** by visiting this site <http://lists.ms-meca.org/mailman/listinfo/msta> and filling out the form found there. **Visit our website at [www.MS-Scienceteachers.org](http://www.MS-Scienceteachers.org)** The listserv and website are services provided for MSTA members at no additional cost. Don't forget the MSTA Wiki space at <http://msta.wikispaces.com> Websites and more can be found here. MSTA on Facebook: Join [Mississippi Science Teachers](#) page on Facebook. **Please send information** on workshops, announcements, other matters of interest to our membership to me, Deborah Duncan, 1402 Golf Course Rd., Philadelphia, MS 39350 or email me at [deb50duncan@gmail.com](mailto:deb50duncan@gmail.com)

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