

# The College Comment



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### **Message from the President**

Hello TECA! I would like to welcome you all back! I am once again looking forward to this upcoming year. The Leadership Team worked very hard over the past few months to improve TECA. We attended the TECA Leadership Conference in conjunction with TSA Nationals in Denver, CO at the end of June. The leadership conference I found was a huge success with the TECA Leadership Team tackling several key issues related to the national and regional competitions; establishing a new competition coordinator program, and a variety of new funding sources. I feel that we have accomplished a lot and are on our way to another successful year. Over the next year the Leadership Team will do their best to keep you informed of all the upcoming events and changes, but please feel free to contact any member of the Leadership Team with any questions or concerns you may have. I am looking forward to see what this upcoming year holds for TECA! Best of luck with your new year of school!

George W. Lavelle

California University of Pennsylvania

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TECA President



### **This Year in Preview by Your President-Elect**



This year the TECA Officer Team has already worked hard already to plan out another successful year for everyone. The biggest challenge facing the team this year has been the competitive events. We have spent many hours planning and re-planning how to execute them. We now have a system in place to sustain TECA for many years to come. The competitive events will be one of my biggest projects this year as I work with all the regional and national coordinators to supply information, dates, problems, and all additional information needed. If you have an questions, feel free to contact me anytime. I am here to serve you! The best way to reach me is to email me at [wathatcher@bsu.edu](mailto:wathatcher@bsu.edu).

### **Vice-President's Welcome**

Hello and welcome back to the school year. As this fall semester starts, I am currently a junior at Millersville University of Pennsylvania, majoring in the Technology Education. With another year down, I am more anxious than ever to start my career as a Technology Education teacher, where I can not only share the skills I have learned throughout my education, but also inspire my students to have a greater interest in the field of technology. Through my hard work in the classroom, I have gained valuable leadership skills, team building skills, and a strong desire to succeed. I pride myself in having the responsibility and drive to successfully fulfill all the obligations I may encounter. I feel that all the members of this year's officer team also have these characteristics, and I am honored to serve on this year's International TECA officer team as the Vice President.



**Secretary's Message**

Welcome back to another semester of staying up way to late doing homework, paying way to much for text books, and cramming more information into your brain than you thought is was possible to hold. Yes we are back at it again. One of the things I look forward to though is some good old community service work with our local TECA chapter. We hit the ground running this semester by helping to raise two Yurts for the Girl Scout Camp Sacajawea on Casper Mountain. We have an invite to help tear down the old cook house at the same location. We aren't having any trouble staying busy with community service this semester. We also used the Yurt raising to recruit new members. It's easier to recruit and retain members in a chapter that is involved in their community than a chapter that just has meetings. So get out their and serve your community and promote your TECA program at the same time.



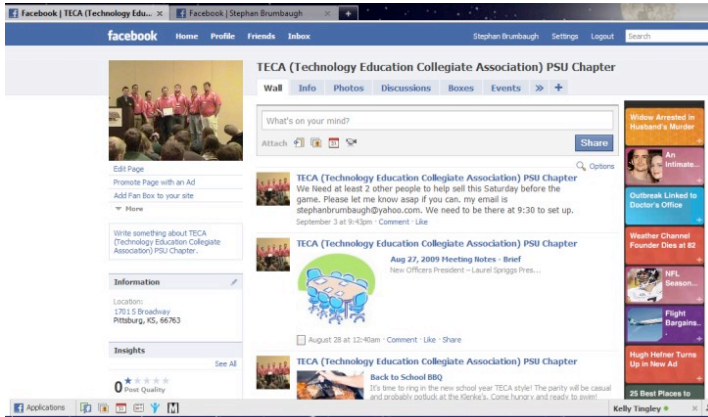
Mance Hurley

2009/2010 Secretary TECA International



## TECA and Facebook Pages: An information match made in cyberspace!

Recently, Facebook overtook all other Social networking sites in usage and popularity. With over 250 million users, and over a third of them college students, it is a good bet that most if not all the students in your local chapters have Facebook accounts. I would like to take some time to point out some features that can be of great help to our chapters. Pages is a feature of Facebook that allows businesses, clubs, and other organizations to have a space on Facebook to invite fans, post info, host discussions, and post events, among other things. Below is the Pittsburg State University TECA page.

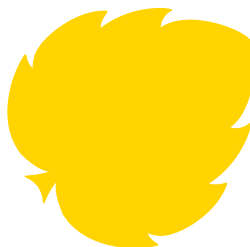
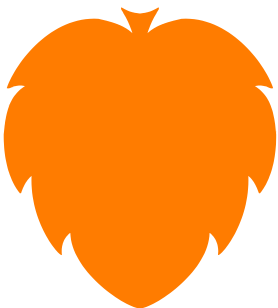
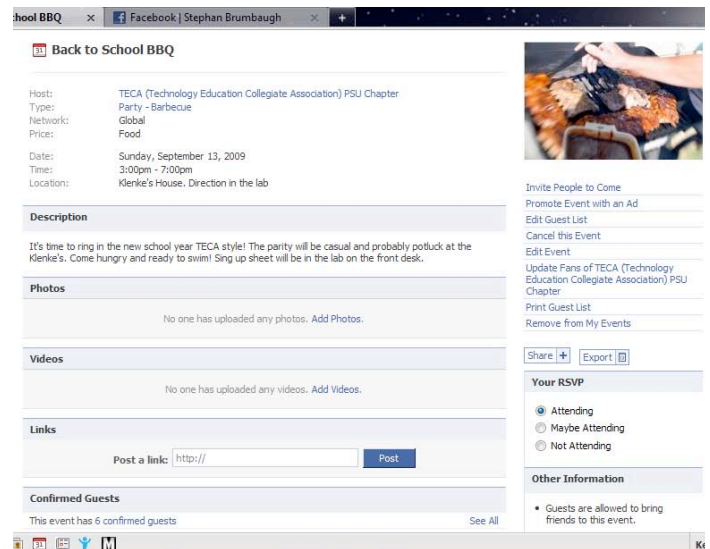


On the wall, you will notice notifications of minute postings, our back to school barbeque event and other general chatter. There are sections for links, discussions, Photos, videos, discussions, events, ect... there is whole lists of options available. In addition, when you reach 25 fans, you have the option of getting a username for your page. So for example, the address you could get would be <http://www.facebook.com/PSUTECA> (not at real address). The page takes about 15 minutes to setup and is very simple. There is not a lot in the way of visual customizations available, but the clean look of the page works well for an

information stop. Each member can subscribe to sms text message alerts from the page, and keep updated while away from the computer, not to mention that Facebook will notify you of changes when you login.

One of the main features that we use most is the event scheduler. When you set up an event, the event gets its own sub-page, where you can post information, make updates, and post questions and answers on the wall. Invites get the option to confirm or deny attendance, lists of invites are printable, and it becomes very simple to update the guests without having to call everyone or gather email addresses.

In my opinion Facebook pages is the best way for chapters to keep updated. Simple, fast, and easy to maintain, Facebook Pages are a great way to keep your chapter informed and updated.



## **Advisor Corner**

Many times, the ability to adapt and change comes at the expense of losing something we felt was texturally part of learning and living. I say that with many thoughts passing me by and wondering how long before we have technology teachers who have never had to possess a text book with paper pages. Considering our resources, along with our population, continuing to print books, newspapers, and journals may be something that only the elderly will remember.

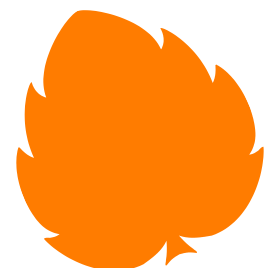
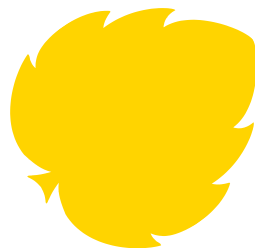
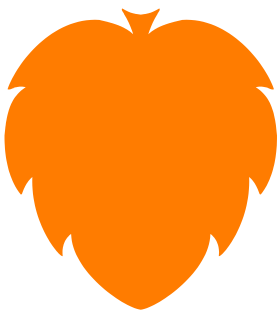
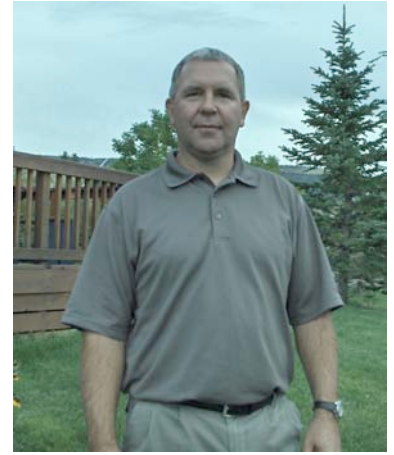
TECA's current adaptation affects all of the students who compete at the regional and national competitions. Our long-standing volunteer of competitive manuals, judges, and competition props has successfully seceded into the role of advisor for his own students. Dr. Seymour provided many years of well-orchestrated events for TECA. Thank you, Dr. Seymour.

The officer team, along with the volunteers providing the competition material, is stepping into this national role of working with event coordinators to design and assign the problems for the regional and national events.

The Summer Leadership Conference approached the highest elevation of any TECA leadership conference held in the lower 48 as it was held in Winter Park, Colorado. The time spent at Winter Park was fast paced and full of new challenges for all in attendance. Representatives from six different universities attended. Business and team building activities were organized to help us think and focus on the challenges that lay ahead for TECA in the coming year(s). That focus began with improving communication with you, the students and advisors. Each student officer has been assigned to a specific set of schools and is to correspond with them throughout the year. This includes forwarding College Comments, listening to questions and concerns, and providing feedback.

An additional area of focus during the Summer Leadership Conference included increasing student participation in the Technology Festival. The Technology Festival, held during ITEA's national conference, provides a venue for college students that is unlike any other opportunity provided by ITEA or TECA competitions. This opportunity allows students, as well as teachers and professors, to present a lesson on an informal basis about teaching. This environment, established as an opportunity to share, will help future teachers to establish a comfort zone in talking and presenting, can lead to increased contact with teachers of similar interests, and prepare all for presenting at future conferences. This is an opportunity for all chapters, regardless of size, to share.

I hope all of you have returned to school with renewed spirits and a passion to become the best teacher candidate you can be. The officers invested much time and energy into identifying the needs and making decisions for the upcoming year for TECA. If these decisions have created a sense of concern or if you would like to provide input on the material I have written in this article, feel free to share publicly with all at [www.Teca-2009.wetpaint.com](http://www.Teca-2009.wetpaint.com).



## Recap from the TECA Leadership Conference

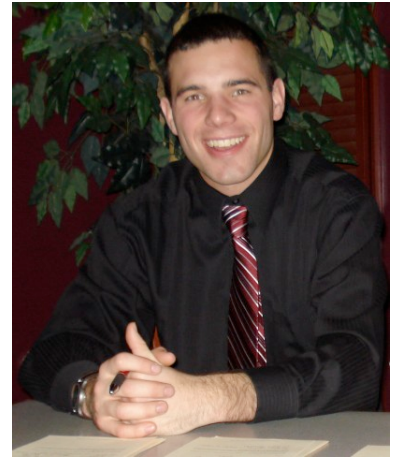
Over the summer, the TECA Leadership team traveled to Denver, Colorado to the TECA Leadership Conference in conjunction with the National TSA Conference. During the conference, the Leadership team worked hard and accomplished a great deal of work to make TECA a better organization. The first and most notable thing the Leadership team accomplished was establishing a new competition coordinator program. The Leadership team voted to adopt this new program in order to continue the long tradition of the various TECA competitions.

The TECA Leadership team also adapted a new budget for the 2009-2010 year, and are currently looking into new ways for funding sources for various TECA events. The Leadership team also worked on improving the College Comment for the upcoming year.

While down in Denver, CO the Leadership team also helped judge a variety of TSA competitions, they helped judge "The Future Technology Teacher", and spread the word to TSA students of what TECA is all about, and to try to create a interest in becoming a future technology educator. During the conference, TECA students also participated in a variety of outdoor activities over the course of the conference by hiking, mountain biking, and even several members even got daring enough to go on the alpine slide.

Overall, the trip was a large success; the Leadership team was able to get a variety of things accomplished! If you have any new ideas or questions related to the Leadership Conference please contact me or one of the leadership team members.

George W. Lavelle  
California University of Pennsylvania  
lav5908@calu.edu  
TECA President



### < How Not to ride and Alpine Sled

President Elect Wade Thatcher Gets patched up after sliding off the sled.

### Support Staff >

Mrs. Thompson and Miss Thompson waiting at Winter Park



### < Mountain Runoff is Cold

Vice President Jon Jarrett prepares to jump in to the stream of snow melt behind our hotel.

### Surprise! >

On a Mountain Hike Reporter Stephan Brumbaugh gets surprised with a camera in the face.





## **TECA Competitive Events: Change is on the Horizon**

This year is going to be another year of change for the TECA group. As many of you know, at the end of last year's ITEA Conference Dr. Richard Seymour retired from his longtime position as TECA Competitive Events Coordinator. Dr. Seymour had served in this role for over 16 years. TECA had been blessed with his continued support and dedication over the years. It was determined in the best interest of TECA that the management board look into a new method of managing the contest events.

The biggest change that will be put into place this year is the distribution of responsibilities relating to the competitive events. Events will now be coordinated by a different professors from all over the country with the help of one of the members of the TECA officer team. All of the materials will be distributed from a central member of the TECA board.



In a effort to support the ITEA goal of going 'green,' TECA will no longer be distributing hard copies of major publications, including the annual Competitive Events Handbook. However, this book, which contains the rules and guidelines for the competitive events, will be published online at [www.iteaconnect.org](http://www.iteaconnect.org) and distributed to all affiliated schools on October 1, 2009 via email. This will greatly reduce expense to TECA as money typically spent on printing and postage will be saved.

Very few changes will be noticed at the regional events this fall. They will still be run by the coordinator in each region, following the same format as previous years. One minor change will be taking place. In previous years, the national coordinator printed contest books and material packets to be mailed to each regional. This year it will be the regionals' responsibility to print their own packets and gather supplies. A contest problem will be provided by the event coordinator to each regional along with the files needed to print the packets.

In response to the positive feedback following last year's ITEA Conference, we will be retaining both the manufacturing and robotics contests. Both of these contests will follow similar formats to those at last year's conference. Be sure to look over these sections of the Contest Handbook when it comes out in October to familiarize yourself with these events.

One of the most significant changes that has been made to the competitive events will take place this spring at the ITEA Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina. The most heard complaint by TECA members has always been that the contests require too much time during the conference, leaving too little time to enjoy the conference itself. To free up time during the conference, the TECA Management Board decided to provide many of the contest problems to chapters prior to the conference and will allow the teams to simply bring a completed project along with them. By allowing chapters to build their projects in laboratories at their schools, high quality projects can be produced to solve more rigorous challenges. The following challenges will be provided ahead of time and can be completed before arriving at the ITEA Conference: Manufacturing, Robotics, Teaching Lesson, and Transportation. During the conference the following contests will be distributed: Communication, Problem Solving, and Tech Challenge.

Any time there is change, there will be bumps in the road. The TECA Management Board is asking for your patience as we work diligently to unveil a new look and feel to the competitive events. We know that some things will not work as well as we had hoped and we will reevaluate after this year and make changes as necessary. One of the most important things is for the TECA members to give us feedback, letting us know what was successful and what needs improvement. Feel free to contact me or any other of the officers any time with questions or concerns. We are always open to new ideas from you!

Wade Thatcher



### **Vice President's Conference Prospective**

When I first became a member of this year's international TECA officer team, I was excited to find out that I would have the privilege of traveling across the nation to different TECA regional events as well as the Technology Student Association (TSA) National Conference. I was especially happy to find out about the traveling to the Technology Student Association National Leadership Conference, because TSA was where my roots as in technology education began.

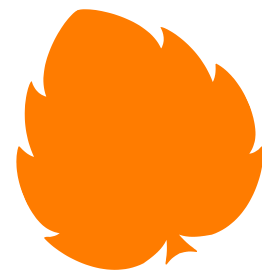
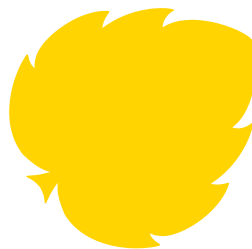
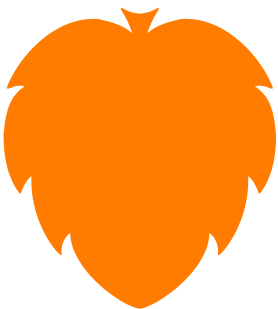
For those of you who may not be familiar with TSA, it is a middle school and high school organization that is similar TECA. There are three levels of competition - regional, state and national competitions. Within these levels, there are twenty-five competitions. I was involved in TSA throughout my middle and high school career.

This year's National TSA Conference was held on June 28 – July 2, in Denver Colorado, at the Sheraton Denver Hotel and the Colorado Convention Center. Our officer team had the privilege to fly out a few days prior to the conference. In this time, we got to not only experience the difference in altitude, but we also had our annual business meeting. Besides the fun of hiking, wiping out on the occasional alpine slide (as some of us did), and the pounding headache from the altitude change, our officer team accomplished many leaps and bounds for this upcoming year's competitions and organization forwarding ideas.

When the adventurous few days came to an end, we traveled back into the city of Denver, to be voluntary judges for the National TSA Conference. In doing so, I had the privilege to give back to the generous organization that has helped guide me in one of the biggest decisions of my life when I chose my career path. It also gave me the chance to see where I once was in my life as a young high school student trying to figure out my path to the future.

I strongly encourage you as a future Technology Education teacher to try to give back or influence the youth of the TSA chapters that span across our nation. If your high school did not have a TSA chapter that you could volunteer to help judge at their regional competition, you could possibly volunteer to help judge at the state or national level. The more we inspire and volunteer our services as future Technology Education teachers / TECA members, the more our positive image as a major and organization is spread; which in turn will help them grow.

Jon Jarrett



## Choice Theory

Choice Theory, developed by William Glasser, M.D., is based on the work of W. Edwards Deming. Choice Theory is founded on building relationships, making good choices, being responsible for those choices, and fulfilling five basic needs. The five basic needs are survival, love and belonging, power, freedom, and fun. (Glasser, 1993) If these needs are met and students make good choices, the instructor who utilizes Choice Theory has a classroom that practically manages itself.



According to Glasser there are four elements in Choice Managing. The instructor engages students by giving them assignments that are relevant, and that allows student input. The instructor models the objective and asks for student input as to a better way to accomplish the objective. The instructor encourages self evaluation. The instructor facilitates the instruction by providing the best instructional input and resources. (Glasser, 1998) These four elements align with managing a Co-operative Learning lesson. In order to get the best results from Choice Managing students must do quality work.

There are six conditions of quality schoolwork, according to Glasser. There must be a warm, supportive classroom environment. Students should be asked to do only quality work. Students are always asked to do the best they can do. Students are asked to evaluate their own work and improve it. Quality work always feels good. Quality work is never destructive. (Glasser, 1998)

“An effective teacher is one who is able to convince...essentially all of his or her students to do quality work in school” (Glasser, p.16, 1998). The instructor has high expectations of the students, based on their unique abilities. The instructor develops his or her own style, based on caring and working as hard if not harder than what he or she expects of the students.

The advantages of Choice Theory are a classroom of self regulating students, it fulfills basic human needs, it will carry into life after school, it fulfills all learning styles, students enjoy performing to the best of their ability, and learning is relevant and fun. The disadvantages of Choice Theory are that the instructor needs to be an expert in Choice Theory and patient enough to let the strategy work, the instructor needs support from administrators and parents, the instructor needs to live the theory in order to resist falling back into coercive strategies, and there may be inconsistency in the students’ lives outside of school.

In the authors practicum experience there was a situation between two students that resulted in some heated discussion because one student kept taking the pieces of metal another student had cut to use. To manage this situation the author would call the class over and use this as an opportunity to teach Choice Theory. He would ask the class the following questions to teach Choice Theory.

What behavior did each student choose?

Students #1 chose to take the other students work.

Student #2 chose to complain loudly making a scene.

What need or needs were they trying to satisfy with this behavior?

Student #1 would have to do less work.

Student #2 was trying to point out an injustice.

What was the picture in their quality worlds that they were trying to satisfy when they chose to create a poor choice?

Student #1 was trying to gain power over student #2.

Student #2 was trying to not lose power to student #1

What better behaviors might they have chosen that would have avoided the poor choice?

Student #1 should respect his classmate and do his own work.

Student #2 could have calmly asked the other student to leave his work alone.

What suggestions make sense to the students who were involved? Are they willing to try them next time?

Both students should respect each other and the rest of the class and not disrupt the class.

The Reinforcement Theory of management was used to handle this situation by the authors mentor in the form of reprimands for the students involved. The mentor teacher used rhetorical questions most of the time to correct misbehavior. For example: Where are you supposed to be? What are you supposed to be working on? The mentor was also quick with praise for a job well done, or for a student that was on task. Reinforcement works well for the mentor teacher's classroom management style and fits his personality. The author would prefer students learn to make good choices and would rather employ Glasser's Choice Theory to manage his classroom. Although Reinforcement has been seen to work well in a shop setting the author questions if the students will benefit from it in their life after they have completed school? If students learn to make good choices and to respect others they will certainly benefit in their lives after they have completed school. If the students learn to make good choices and teach their children to make good choices then society will benefit.

#### References:

Glasser, William, M.C. (1998) *Choice Theory in the Classroom*. New York: Harper Collins.

Glasser, William, M.D. (1998). *The Quality School: Managing Students without Coercion*. New York: Harper Perennial.

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# Chapter Write-ins

## **Chad Jones—University of Central Missouri**

Take a few moments and think about a time in your life when someone shared their thoughts with you about what it means to be a leader. As a future technology teacher, you will have the opportunity to lead students down paths and introduce them to careers that will most certainly shape the future of our technological world. So do you have what it takes? Reflect again on what you feel it means to be a leader, and what specific attributes people who are effective and successful leaders, possess. For me the attributes are humor, creativity, and conviction. Teachers that inspire me have the skills to focus my attention by relating off-topic, humorous, or unique information to the lesson being taught in any class. These same teachers are not only creative with their instructional methods, but also in their ability to share past experiences in their technology related career. Creativity also plays an important role in how the lessons you will be teaching are planned and eventually assessed. Finally, teachers that are influential leaders speak with conviction regarding facts and details during certain points of a lesson that are crucial to student learning and discovery. In short, say what you mean and mean what you say. Your future students will be keen to spot an unprepared or unfocused lecturer or demonstrator. Being prepared can foster a greater sense of confidence and self-esteem that will most times be reflected by your students. So as you yourself look to your current professors, instructors, and advisors for leadership, be prepared to take opportunities that will build your own leadership skills and attributes. Your future students will benefit greatly.

## **Jasmine Bond—Reporter UW/CC TECA**

On Saturday, August 29, 2009, six of the current members of the Technology Student Collegiate Association (TECA) of Casper College and UW/CC, Joel Alworth, Jasmin Bond, Rob Hill, Mance Hurley, Aaron Locker, and Kyle Stoneking assisted with the construction of two yurts at Camp Sacajawea on Casper Mountain. The construction of the yurts will allow the camp to be more accommodating of year-round campers as the camp's cabins and other dwellings are more suitable for warm weather. Additionally, the yurts are wheelchair accessible. The current members of TECA were able to meet a future TECA/UW Technical Education recruit and current Casper College Industrial Arts major who volunteered. Two Geology Club members and three T-bird Basketball team members additionally represented Casper College. Other members of the Casper community also participated in the construction of the yurts. Construction of the yurts lasted from about 9:00am to 5:00pm and consisted of positioning the doors, raising the lattice wall framework and rafters, covering, insulating, and recovering the roof, and insulating and covering the sides of the yurt. The large team of volunteers nearly completed the task, save raising and attaching the domes and snow-load supports. Meals were provided by the Girl Scouts of Wyoming and Montana.

