

Notes from the President - June, 2009
Submitted by: Diann Valentine - TESTA President

Our first news is to congratulate the winners of our 2009 election:

Gail Gant as President Elect, St. John's school in the Houston area

Tom Killen as Vice President, Coppell ISD in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area

Jan Grout as Secretary, Clear Creek ISD south of the Houston area

Lisa Stone as Treasurer, Ft. Bend ISD west of the Houston area

Thanks again to **Lori Borroni-Engle** for a great job as our treasurer for the past several years!!!

Our second news is a new and updated TESTA website. A big thanks goes out to **Dr. Brad Hoge**, director of HUNSTEM (Houston Urban Network for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), Assistant Professor of Natural Science and Science Education, Department of Natural Science at the University of Houston, downtown location, for volunteering his time to design and host our website. You can reach us at <http://hunstem.uhd.edu/TESTA/> or from the STAT website link. We will update our site twice monthly. Check our calendar and links for professional opportunities. Please let us know what we can do to make this a great tool for you.

At this CAST 2009 in Galveston, we will begin celebrating the Silver Anniversary of TESTA. The idea of TESTA was conceived at the CAST conference in 1984 in Austin. There seems to have been ups and downs in our organization. The downs started when the course Earth Science was taken out of the state curriculum and became intergraded science. With the onset of the revised TEKS starting in 2011, the eighth grade will teach at least 50% Earth Science. Also, we can look for a capstone Earth Science class in high school. YEA!!!

Here is an example of an exciting opportunity for 8th through 12th grade science teachers that is designed to help prepare teachers for the new capstone Earth and Space Science (ESS) course. This rigorous professional development program, the Texas Earth and Space Science (TXESS) Revolution, is sponsored by the National Science Foundation's Opportunities for Enhancing Diversity in the Geosciences Program. The project website is

(<http://www.txessrevolution.org/>) where you will find information about the program and an application form (<http://www.txessrevolution.org/application/>).

The next article will feature the detailed account of the ultimate TESTA's fieldtrip "Exploring the *Geological Wonders of Iceland*". Stay tuned!

Have a great summer either relaxing or adventuring!