Students arrived at the Sheraton Premier on Friday, October 24 with no idea of how the weekend would play out. Little did they know they were in store for a great leadership academy filled with a wide array of Leadership activities. Friday night started out with AJ Watson from Focus training, AJ had the students group together and do multiple leadership activities. These activities allowed the students to bond with each other and develop a level of trust between the group members. This also allowed some students to stand up and voice their opinions. Check out page three for regional updates and upcoming events!
“Students learned how to become future leaders of their school, community, and even state.”

their own opinions and exemplify their leadership qualities. AJ also reminded the students to wake up each day with these three goals in mind; be still, do better, and achieve excellence. On Saturday the officers lead 4 different workshops that allowed the students to hone some of their leadership skills. Over the weekend I asked many students what they thought and the overall opinion was they were having an amazing time. This year’s leadership Academy was a tremendous success that allowed many students to foster their leadership skills so they can become the leaders of tomorrow.

-David Poole
Virginia TSA Vice President

National TSA Updates

Hello Virginia TSA. Not only am I your incumbent Parliamentarian, I am the chairman of the National TSA Concerns Committee. Here are some updates from TSA at the national level.

1) Check out the National TSA website at http://www.tsaweb.org. A lot of new content has been added to the TSA website. On the main page, there is a weekly poll with subjects ranging from the environment, to STEM, and to energy. The design of the new website really focuses on the menu bar at the top of the webpage. Each category has separate subcategories that make information about the Technology Student Association easy to find. You can also sign up for the National TSA email updates by visiting http://www.tsaweb.org/Email-Sign%20Up.

2) The National TSA Dress Code has been changed and has taken effect since September 2008. Females must now wear the official TSA tie that has been designed for females. If you need to purchase one for an upcoming TSA event, please visit http://www.costore.com/tsa in order to make your purchase.

3) At the 2008 National TSA business meeting, the voting delegates adopted a resolution that would make a recommendation to the TSA, Inc. Board of Directors to change the name of the National TSA Conference to the International TSA Conference. If adopted, changing “national” to “international,” would encompass the multiple students from the Wilhelm Ostwald Gymnasium in Leipzig, Germany that have visited the States for the National TSA Conference since the early 21st. century. If the board of directors adopts this resolution, it will increase outreach on an international level.
Regional Updates

South Central Region

Hello Virginia TSA. I am the South-Central Regional President, Mack Rich. Recently my region held the 2008 Fall Rally. I know everyone who came had a good time—after all we were Taking Flight with TSA! We all got to learn about the history and science of aviation from two people from the Virginia Aviation Museum who definitely knew what they were talking about. Also Mr. Turner, the advisor of Short Pump Middle School talked to us about TSA competitive events and proper planning for them. Additionally, state and regional officers taught us about TSA leadership and officers. That particular session definitely affected some of us because the South-Central Region has gotten THREE new regional officers since then.

And then after everyone got a good ‘ol helping of aviation knowledge, we headed on over to Highland Springs High School to fly planes and gliders built by Highland Springs students and teachers according to TSA regulations, that was especially fun. Do you know what the best part of all of this was? It was all FREE!!! How cool is that? So next year if any one from Virginia TSA wants a piece of South-Central Region style fun, just give me a call.

The Regional Fall Rallies were not the only fun activities going on in Virginia TSA’s recent history. On October 24 and 25 in Northern Virginia, in the same hotel we will all be staying at for Technosphere 2009, there was the Virginia TSA 2nd annual Leadership Academy. The Virginia TSA Executive Council planned and orchestrated the event which included a guest speaker, AJ, from Focus Training and numerous breakout sessions also led by the Executive Council. The theme for the 2nd annual Leadership Academy was Quest for Success which was incorporated into the whole weekend. I strongly suggest that anyone who has yet to attend a Virginia TSA Leadership Academy should do what they can to attend next year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mack Rich, South-Central Regional President

Do not forget to sign up for your Regional Fairs! Log on to www.vatsa.org to download registration packets

Valley Region

On September 13, 2008, students from Valley Region TSA gathered at the JMU ISAT building for the one and only, Valley Region Fall Rally. During the opening session we were given a brilliant presentation by Dr. Robert Kander, who talked about the JMU new Engineering Program that was coming soon. Afterwards, everyone went to two of many workshops, including film, problem solving, a tour of the WVPT TV station, and even a leadership workshop run by Alec Jentink and David Poole, our Virginia TSA President and Vice President.

Then, Regional Officers speaker and other important guests. After that, everyone went to watch the JMU Dukes defeat UMass. Everyone enjoyed this fun day, and we can’t wait until the regional fair.

Respectfully Submitted,
Grace Day
Regional Updates

Southwestern Region
Hello Virginia TSA! Jason Dreyzehner, Southwestern Regional President here again to tell you about our Fall Regional Rally '08. The 2008 Southwestern Regional Fall Rally was held on Oct. 29, 2008 at Abingdon High School. The stage was set with a very high-tech panel background, complete with flood lights, and techno music pulsing in surround sound. After the meeting was formally opened, we quickly moved on to the presentations for the night.

We had some great speakers, including individuals representing CGI, Northrop Grumman, Mountain States Heath Alliance, Universal Fibers, Virginia Highlands Community College, and the Virginia Department of Business Assistance. These individuals spoke to over 70 prospective TSA members about opportunities and the uses of technology in their organizations. Demonstrations included Powerpoints and a live, robotics presentation, from Virginia Highlands Community College students. We also presented awards from the 2007-2008 State and National Conferences in which the Southwestern Region definitely excelled. A team of E.B. Stanley Middle school students, most of whom are now with the recently chartered Abingdon High School chapter had national top 10 finishes in 7 different events including a national first place in “Inventions and Innovations”. Other top 10 national competition winners included Website design, game design, graphic design, video creation, and Structural Challenge. Lebanon High School also took home a national third place in CAD Architectural. Aside from competitions, we also boasted a Middle School Member of the Year and National Honor Society member. Awards were presented by Ms. LaTasha Watson, Virginia TSA State Advisor, and Abingdon Mayor, Mrs. Humphreys.

All in all, the 2008 Southwestern Regional TSA Fall Rally was an outstanding success, and the region now consists of four chapters. We are off to a great start this year, and I look forward to seeing you at Technosphere ‘09.

Jason Dreyzehner
Southwestern Region TSA President

Tidewater Region
The Tidewater Region completed their Regional Fall Rally with a smash! At the rally, TSA members were able to look at different ways to use the simplest technologies to the most advanced technologies. They were also given the opportunity to explore careers involved with technology. The Fall Rally opening ceremony had Northrop Grumman as the guest speakers. After the guest speakers, Dr. Richard Boutwell and Christopher Skiba explained to TSA members, and those who were participating in the boat design competition, more about SNAME, and Northrop Grumman.

Northrop Grumman, in partnership with TSA, is holding a boat competition, where students design the boat, and if chosen, their boat is built by Northrop Grumman. Northrop Grumman brought with them a team of students who are part of their Apprentice School known as SNAME, or the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers.

Students were split into groups, where they were able to work with apprentices from the apprentice school in piping, building mini rafts with aluminum foil, looking at bending metal, and wiring, they were also able to look at a real submarine, and a small boat that the apprentice school students designed and built. Students as well as advisors, parents, and other adults after completing these tasks were put into groups where they designed boats using only a Manila folder, plastic bag, ruler, cardboard square, and 2 crayons! The advisors encouraged students to think outside of the box and to try different designs, in the end some floated and some sank, but everyone learned and had a fun time. TSA after thanking SNAME for coming out closed the fall rally, with a promise for an exciting year!

Respectfully Submitted,
Yvette Pate
Tidewater Region Reporter
Each year when we go to Nationals, a big event is trading lapel pins as mementos from the conference. Students and Advisors really get serious about this activity.

How would you like to design the pin that Virginia will have made for States? It should be submitted in a 1” x 1” color design (.png format) and should be something that showcases our state as well as TSA. It does not have to say Technosphere, but must include “2009” or “09”. Blank space (alpha value of 0) will not be part of the pin. If your pin is not four sided, you will need to define its physical borders by making all of the extra into blank space.

We would like for you to submit it no later than February 10, 2009 to tsa@vatsa.org. The prize awarded to the winner will receive free pins for the entire chapter and be recognized at the Technosphere awards program.

Northern Region

Hello Northern Region! My fellow Regional officers and I held the Regional Fall Rally at HH Poole Middle School on November 1st, 2008 and it was a great success. Not only could I tell that the students enjoyed themselves, but the advisors enjoyed helping out with the transitions between activities. There were a total of 85 TSA participants. We held group activities that focused on leadership skills as well as problem solving and team cooperation. I would like to personally thank all of the advisors and parents for transporting the students to HH Poole Middle School. I would also like to thank the Northern Regional Executive Council Officers and my advisor, Mrs. Dori Roberts.

Respectfully Submitted,
Quentin Lawson
Northern Region President

Virginia Western Technology Summit

On Tuesday October 7, 2008, Virginia Western Community College held its third annual Technology Summit. There were sessions held introducing the different engineering and technology programs offered by Virginia Western. There were also fifty plus employers there speaking with the students and companies. Many school surrounding areas attended Northside High School, Salem Lord Botetourt High School, High School, William Fleming Arnold R. Burton Trade School, High School, and the Regional Western showed that it has a great technology department. This summit is a great opportunity for students to figure out what path they want to take before they graduate from high school and a worthwhile event that Virginia Western Community College should continue to hold yearly.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jason Williams
Blue Ridge Region Secretary

This year, Virginia TSA would like to increase the number of applications submitted for awards that are presented during the Virginia TSA State Conference, “Technosphere”. Some advisors may not know, but there are 7 awards that Virginia TSA bestows to chapters and individuals at Technosphere. They are: Bronze and Silver Achievement Program, Chapter Excellence, Advisor of the Year, Commendation Award, Century
The Surry County High School Technology Student Association sponsored their annual can food drive to aid those in need during the thanksgiving holiday. We understand the meaning of being thankful and cared for during this time of sharing. TSA presented to the Surry Department of Social Services can food goods to be distributed to families in need during the thanksgiving holiday. Below is a picture showing the TSA president and vise-president giving these can food goods to the director and board member of the Social Service Department.

Pictured from left to right: (TSA Vide-President) Stephen Pierce, (Director of Surry Department of Social Services) Mrs. Valerie Pierce, (Surry Department of Social Service Board Chair) Mrs. Janet Moore, and (TSA President) Jasmine Smallwood.

“Do not abuse- REUSE!”

Reuse: to use again especially in a different way or after reclaiming or reprocessing

- Shopping Bags- reuse for doggy duty or trash can liners
- Reuse plastic cups, spoons, knives, forks, plates, etc to produce less trash
- Plastic Bottles- reuse empty bottles by refilling them several times
  - Egg Cartons- reuse as a container for small objects like jewelry
    - Reuse empty body wash/ shampoo bottles again for travel purposes
    - To limit spendings- reuse extra school supplies from the following year
The Virginia TSA Archives Committee Needs Your Help!

First of all I want to say thank you to everyone who participated in one of the Fall Rallies held in Virginia. It was great seeing a room full of new and old TSA faces at the Northern region fall rally. With many games and challenges we put the character of our TSA family to the test and had a wonderful time.

The Mountain View chapter has been collecting canned goods to be donated to those in need. If your chapter has something cool they want to share we want to know about it. Contact one of the many TSA historians and send them a picture with a caption containing the following: Location, Date, people and a brief description of what’s going on. We want to know what’s going on so send in those pictures.

Respectfully submitted,
Rachel Harden
Virginia TSA Historian

Recycling: is to process discarded products so they can be used again.

How to make old things useful:
- A shopping bag - can be made into various plastic materials
- Newspaper - can be made into loose leaf paper or other various paper products
- Plastic Spoon - (thermoplastic) can be recycled and used for fillers
- Soda Can - can be melted down to be used for aluminum foil or aluminum products
- Plastic Bottle - (thermoplastic) can be recycled and used for plastic materials

Example:
2008 Virginia TSA Leadership Academy.
October 18, 2008
Participants bond in a Team Building Activity

“Use it up, wear it out; Make it do, or do without”
How many outlines of triangles of all sizes and shapes can you trace in the figure?

Unscramble the words below:

1. lcoenhytgo________________
2. coptuemr______________
3. onioicasats______________
4. ierleaehpsd______________
5. tkrwemao________________
6. uotaienced______________