

# VIRGINIA SCENE

The Official Newsletter of Virginia TSA

Volume 28, Issue 1

## New Officers Workshop

*Charmaine Smith, State Parliamentarian*

The Executive Council traveled to Graves Mountain Lodge in Syria, VA on May 16, 17, and 18 for the New Officers Workshop. I did not know where Graves Mountain Lodge was before the workshop. We traveled long and winding roads into the Blue Ridge mountains. The lodge was at the end of a road in Madison County. It rained the entire time we were there. In spite of the rain, the Executive Council members had fun and worked hard to complete several different agenda items.

Each region met and planned their respective Fall Leadership Rallies and Spring Regional Fairs. The Council developed their Program of Work for the

upcoming year. A budget for Virginia TSA was reviewed and approved. The Council also practiced our opening and closing ceremony.

The Council used the time together to experience several team-building activities, such as the "Creed Pyramid," "Officer Monster," and the "Spider Web." On May 16<sup>th</sup>, the Council had the opportunity to celebrate Matthew Ridgeway's birthday. We also celebrated Marlayna Robinson's birthday which was the next week.

I believe the weekend was a success despite the rain, lack of television, and telephones (including cell phones). I



*The 2003-2004 Virginia TSA Executive Council.*



look forward to working with the Executive Council and Ms. Stansbury to complete the Program of Work and continue to strengthen Virginia TSA.

## How TSA Has Affected My Life

*By Ross Higgins, TSA Alumni, George H. Moody Middle School*

The Technology Student Association is a student organization that has fostered the development of technological appreciation in the lives of many young students in Virginia and throughout the country.

As a previous TSA member and current high school student, I recognized the influence that the TSA program has had on my life. When I first joined, I was not sure what to expect. It was a program full of innovation, learning, as well as going down paths I had not previously explored. It has and continues

to influence my current schooling, my personal life, in addition to my job and will later have an effect on my career. It inspired and motivated me to further my education in the field of Information Technology where I discovered that some of the very basics of my current knowledge originated with my being a member of TSA. This influence is one that every child should have in his or her life, as I truly believe it will give all kids alike, the opportunity to explore, understand, and appreciate the technological advances currently taking place in our lives.

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**"Learning to Live in a Technical World."**

# A Word From the President...

## Marlayna Robinson



Greetings Virginia TSA,

Time is flying quickly. First, I would like to apologize for my absence from the Technosphere Closing Ceremony. I had been sick during the previous week and thought I was over it. Boy... was I wrong. Special thanks to my Vice President, Whitney Hawkins, for stepping in and doing such a great job.

The Executive Council spent May 16, 17, and 18 at Graves Mountain Lodge in Syria, VA attending the New Officers Workshop. I am proud of how all of us came together as a team during the weekend to accomplish the goals we set. During some of our "free time" we sang karaoke and danced to the music. While at the Lodge, the different committees and regions worked to create an action plan and developed the agenda for our fall rallies and spring fairs. If any members of current TSA chapters are interested in serving on a committee, please contact me. Any active member of TSA is allowed to serve on our committees. Please submit your name, chapter, qualifications, and committee on which you wish to serve.

On June 25-29, Virginia TSA members attended the National Conference in Orlando, FL. Thank you, Virginia TSA members for representing us well! We had eighty-one (81) teams and individuals who were National Finalists, of those eighty-one (81), ten (10) were National Champions. I want to congratulate Mr. Willcox, our corporate member, on his involvement with the ITEA and their Outstanding Recognition Award. Mr. Willcox has been a leader in TSA for many years and this award is indicative of his professional service as ITEA President. In addition, I want to extend congratulations to Mr. Roger Dowe and Northside Middle School, Norfolk, VA for their awards of Virginia TSA Teacher of the Year and Program of the Year. Mr. Ed Sheets from Stewart Middle School for receiving the Honorary Life Member award. After over 30 years of service, Mr. Sheets can now say he is a TSA MEMBER. During the awards ceremony it was great to see all those Virginians on the stage! Congratulations to all! Next year, the National Conference is in Nashville, TN, begin making plans to attend now!

Two of the Executive Council goals for the upcoming year are to increase membership and recruit officer candidates for regional and state offices. In October, National TSA will hold its annual leadership training "Directions" in Reston, VA. I would recommend to ALL who are interested in running for any TSA office to attend this conference. Virginia TSA had the fourth largest membership in the National TSA for 2002-2003, *WE WANT TO BE NUMBER 1*. Ask your friends if they are members or if they have a chapter at their school. If they are not a member or if their school does not have a TSA chapter, ask your advisor to have your chapter assist them in starting a chapter. This increases our Virginia TSA membership and each person in your chapter is eligible for the Star Recognition Award. I will also be meeting with the Legislative Aides of different General Assembly members to begin pushing the legislative agenda started by last year's Executive Council.

In closing, I want to thank all of you for your support. Without you, the member, there is no Virginia TSA. Have a fun and safe Autumn!

## The Virginia Scene

"A Newsletter for students by students"

Published by the  
Virginia Association of the  
Technology Student Association

### The Virginia TSA Executive Council

<b>President:</b>	Marlayna Robinson
<b>Vice-President:</b>	Whitney Hawkins
<b>Secretary:</b>	Whitney Nixon
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Blaire Hawkins
<b>Reporter:</b>	Amanda Ricks
<b>Sgt. At Arms:</b>	Matthew Ridgeway
<b>Historian:</b>	Carmen Cabrero
<b>Parliamentarian:</b>	Charmaine Smith
<b>Immediate Past President:</b>	Brittany Stansberry

### Regional Presidents

<b>Blue Ridge:</b>	Lee Murphy
<b>Northern:</b>	Mary Mocsary
<b>South Central:</b>	Phoebe Chan
<b>Southwestern:</b>	Laura Meade
<b>Tidewater:</b>	Cassandra Hugate
<b>Valley:</b>	Chris Senger

### Executive Council Advisors

Mr. Cliff Wampler  
Mr. Bill Blough  
Mr. Tom Boyle  
Mr. Chuck Koch  
Mr. David Magnone  
Mr. Joe Mitchell  
Mr. George Paige  
Mr. Elliott Riddick  
Mr. Jerry Ridgeway  
Mr. Todd Welker

### Virginia TSA State Advisor

Ms. Kathleen F. Stansbury

### Technology Education Specialist, Virginia Department of Education

Mr. George R. Willcox

# Fundraising Tips

By Blaire Hawkins, State Treasurer

We are all members of Virginia TSA because we love to use technology and we enjoy our conferences. However, the money required for travel, lodging, and food at these events can really add up. In the face of a slumping economy, what is the best way to go about fundraising?

Here are some tried and true ideas from the experts:

## 1. Set a goal.

Try to estimate how much money you will need for your entire chapter to go to Technosphere (for example). You are much more likely to raise enough money if the members of your chapter have a goal in mind.

## 2. Develop a Plan.

As a group, pick several fundraisers that interest all of the members of your chapter. Make sure at least a few of the fundraisers are group activities (that's always more fun). Carwashes, yard sales, and concession sales are always popular. Here are a couple unorthodox ways of raising a few dollars. Have a "job day", in which each chapter member agrees to do a certain service, such as raking leaves, vacuuming, etc. and donate those funds to the chapter. As TSA chapters, it would also be relatively easy to manufac-

ture and sell small items such as nameplates or key chains and sell them.

## 3. Remember, one fundraiser at a time.

It's always easier to keep track of funds when you have one stream of income at a time. Chapter members can focus their efforts in one direction, making each individual effort a greater success.

## 4. One word: Promotion.

The more people who know about your fundraising effort, the more people are likely to contribute. Put notices on your school announcements, on the radio, or in your local newspaper.

## 5. Always keep a positive attitude.

If one idea doesn't work out as you hoped, don't give up! There are always new methods to try. Also, be creative in your efforts (don't get stuck doing the same thing all year long).

Good luck in your efforts! If you follow these tips, we'll see you at Technosphere.

# Tips for Minutes

By Whitney Nixon, State Secretary

The position of Secretary is very important in every organization. "The Duties and Responsibilities of TSA Officers" Handbook lists the requirements for TSA Secretaries, whether they are local, regional or state. One of the Secretary's most important duties is to prepare the minutes of all meetings. As the Secretary prepares the minutes, they must ensure the minutes contain the following items:

- The type of meeting held (regular, special, etc.).
- Name of the organization. (chapter, regional, or state)
- Date, time, and place of meeting.
- The presence of chairperson and secretary or, in their absence, the name of their substitutes.
- Status of the previous minutes (whether they were approved or their reading dispensed with).
- What is decided upon and done.
- The exact wording of every motion and amendments, whether carried or lost, in addition to the names of the members who made and seconded the motion.



*The President, Parliamentarian, and Secretary work together as a team during the New Officers Workshop.*

- Include all main motions, points of order and appeals, whether they were carried, lost, or withdrawn.
- Record the names of committee members as well as the committee chairs.
- A copy of the treasurer's report.
- Conclude the minutes by annotating the time of adjournment.

As you can see, the Secretary must pay attention at all times during the meeting. If you do not understand a motion, you can stop the meeting and request that the person presenting a motion submit in writing the motion to the secretary. In order to keep accurate minutes the secretary can use whatever means they wish, a laptop, pad and pencil, or a tape recorder. Follow these guidelines and you cannot go wrong.

## Valley

by Chris Senger, President

Hello Virginia TSA from the Valley Region. This year is going to be a busy year for the region. With our Fall Rally on September 20, 2003, the officer team is already preparing for the event. The team has also started to prepare for the Spring Fair, but that is still many months away. As President of the Valley Region, I have already met with my new officer team and am very pleased with my new officers. My new officers are as follows: Genita Metzler as Vice President, John Huffstetler as Secretary, Isaac Hulvey as Treasurer, Sekani Tembo as Reporter, Holly Stansberry as Historian, Katie Forbes as Parliamentarian, Nathan Heatwole as Sergeant-at-Arms, and Blaire Hawkins as Immediate Past President.



*State Officers from the Valley Region pause for a photo op.*

There are many things to look forward to this year. The Valley Region will be fundraising for the American Red Cross at all meetings and conferences. The Fall Rally in September is always an exciting meeting. It has many interesting workshops that I hope everyone will attend. They are very informative and a lot of fun. Hope to see you at the Fall Rally!

## Valley Events

by Sekani Tembo, Reporter

The 2003-2004 Valley Region Council has just had its first meeting on Wednesday the 21<sup>st</sup> of May at Fort Defiance High School. It was very productive and is a good sign of a strong council. During the meeting, many events were discussed and planned. Among the topics were fundraising, possible workshops at the 2003-2004 Fall Rally, dates for the Fall Rally, Regional Fair, and ideas for a possible Valley Region Website.

The Council decided that next year we should fundraise for the Red Cross since it is the State's Community Service Project. Many ideas were discussed, and a couple of ideas were to sell doughnuts and orange juice in the morning at the Regional Fair, and to sell refreshments at the Fall Rally. The Council also developed exciting ideas for the Fall Rally, including having more prize opportunities in workshops, and more new, and exciting workshops. Also, a regional website may be designed for next year, on which we will show officer pictures and biographies, chapter pictures from the Fall Rally, and many other informative and interesting topics. The Fall Rally will be on September 20 at JMU, and the Regional Fair has been planned for March 13 at Stewart Middle School.

The Regional Council had a confident feeling as it practiced the parliamentary procedures, and all felt that 2003-04 will be a good year for the Valley Region.

## Blue Ridge

by Lee Murphy, President

Leading the Blue Ridge Region for the 2003-2004 term are President, Lee Murphy; Vice-President, Timothy Dobson; Secretary, Shauna Bradley; Treasurer, Brian Fajohn; Parliamentarian, Dhiren Savalia; and Sergeant-at-Arms, Clarence Tuck. The positions of Historian and Reporter have not yet been filled. Applications are available from Virginia TSA.

During this past school year, Halifax County Middle School held numerous donut sales to help raise money for local TSA. Students taking Technology Education classes and students on the chapter's competitive events team participated and seemed to enjoy it. Following donut day, came hot dog day which was liked very much by its participants. A cook-out for TSA students was also held during this past school year. It was something different that had a nice turnout. As the year went on schools throughout the Blue Ridge Region began practicing for national competition. Covington High School had previously went around to businesses asking for donations and gained about \$1,500.00 in donations. They entered competitions such as Speech, Flight, CO<sub>2</sub>, and Promotional Graphics. Their Technology Bowl team has been practicing hard also.

The Blue Ridge Region is looking forward to a terrific year in TSA. We plan to have the regional Spring Fair at the Halifax County High School. Our Fall Rally site will be held at Brookville High School.



*The Highland Springs High School Chapter Stands for a picture after a General Session.*

## South Central

*By Phoebe Chan, President*

I hope everyone is having a great year so far. The National Conference held in Orlando, Florida this year was a great success, and I'm sure that everyone who attended had a great time celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the Technology Student Association.

The South Central Region so far has only three officers and would encourage anyone to submit an application to become a Regional Officer for this year. Our officers so far are Alvin Bond, as our South Central Vice President, and Lance Gary, as our South Central Treasurer. The tentative date for our South Central Fall Rally is October 25, 2003 at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School. I encourage all students and advisors to participate. There will be important information shared, and students will be able to become more acquainted with some of the competitions that they might participate in during the regional, state, and national conferences. Fun and engaging activities are being planned for the special gathering.

The tentative date for our South Central Regional Fair is March 13, 2004 at Highland Springs High School. Further updates will be posted on the Virginia TSA Website. Please be sure check the website from time to time to be sure to catch all the important dates.

I hope everyone has a great year, and please be sure to try to contact someone if you do have any questions. I can be reached by e-mail at [princess885522@yahoo.com](mailto:princess885522@yahoo.com) or you could e-mail Ms. Stansbury at [tsa@vatsa.org](mailto:tsa@vatsa.org). Again, please do not hesitate to submit an application to become a regional officer and I wish the best of luck to everyone for the upcoming year.

## Tidewater Project ASK

*By Lily Smith, Immediate Past President*

The Tidewater Region was busy this past year supporting the Virginia TSA community service project, Project ASK, the Association for the Support of Children with Cancer. The 2002-03 Tidewater Regional Council made it one of their premier objectives to support this endeavor in any way possible at all regional sessions.

The Regional Council wanted to find ways to raise money for Project ASK that were fun for the members. At the Tidewater Fall Leadership Rally, officers sold raffle tickets for a number of items, including a birdhouse and a joystick. A 50/50 raffle was also conducted, and the winner received over \$90. There was also a candy game, whereby candy could be purchased and select pieces were marked winners of cash prizes.

At the 2002 Fall Rally, the members and officers in attendance helped to raise over \$200 for this worthwhile cause. At the 2003 Tidewater Regional Fair, the officers wanted to match their success. They did away with the 50/50 raffle, and instead, auctioned off over 10 items, including Tidewater TSA merchandise, a gift card to Best Buy, and a boom box. A parent also helped out with another candy game.

Again, the combined efforts of the Tidewater Region brought in another \$200, putting the region's total at over \$400. The Regional Council hopes to maintain the enthusiasm for community service by implementing even more fundraising endeavors in the future.

## Regional Rally Dates

### *Valley*

September 20

James Madison University,  
Harrisonburg

### *Northern*

October 18

Rappahannock County High School  
Rappahannock County

### *Southwestern*

October 18

Russell County Career and Technology  
Center, Lebanon

### *South Central*

October 25

Maggie L. Walker Governor's School,  
Richmond

### *Blue Ridge*

November 8

Brookville High School,  
Lynchburg

### *Tidewater*

November 22

Air and Space Museum,  
Hampton

*Mark your calendars for these Rally dates.  
Visit [www.vatsa.org](http://www.vatsa.org) for details!*



Marlayna Robinson  
President

As a rising senior, I look forward to this year as one of great possibilities. I will do my part to make this Executive Council among the most successful ever. I became involved in TSA as a freshman at Heritage High School in Newport News. My school activities also include soccer, field hockey, and track. In my free time, I enjoy reading novels and playing football with my friends. Singing in my church choir and participating in the youth group keeps the rest of my free time full and lively. I am the youngest of three children, and I count myself among a special group of people because I am a twin. My twin brother is also a part of TSA. Please join me in making this year with TSA interesting and exciting.



Whitney Hawkins  
Vice P resident

I was born and raised in Waynesboro, Virginia. I attend high school at Fort Defiance High School, where I will be a sophomore next year. At school, besides being in TSA, I participate in the girl's varsity soccer team, forensics team, academic team, Spanish club, and SCA. Outside of school, I'm active in my church youth group and play on a travelling soccer team called the Waynesboro Jazz.

My family is small, there are my two parents, Rick and Debbie, as well as my younger brother Ross. My family's life sometimes revolves around me and all the activities I'm into. I'm very grateful for all the opportunities they've given me!



Whitney Nixon  
Secretary

I am a 17-year-old junior at Heritage High School in Newport News. I was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, but have lived in Virginia for the past 10 years. As a member of our TSA chapter, I have begun to overcome my shyness of public speaking. In addition to TSA, I also participate in both varsity soccer and cheerleading. I look forward to the challenges and rewards of the upcoming year; plus working with the Executive Council to accomplish our team's goals and the goals of the Virginia TSA.



Blaire Hawkins  
Treasurer

I'm sixteen years old, and I'll be a junior during the '03-'04 school year at Rockbridge County High School in Lexington, Virginia. This will be my sixth year as a member of Virginia TSA, and I'm truly excited to be serving as your Virginia TSA Treasurer. During my TSA "career," I have attended five state and four national conferences. I have also served two years as a regional officer, and this will be my second year on the State Executive Council. I hope to continue to serve Virginia TSA as a member of the Executive Council until I graduate. I know this year's Executive Council will make Technosphere 2004 an event to remember!



Amanda Ricks  
Reporter

Virginia TSA, I am proud to say I am back for another great year. I have been in TSA for 3 years now and have loved every moment of it. Some of the other offices I have held in TSA have been: local Sergeant-at-Arms, Vice President, Regional Parliamentarian, and Regional President. I am 16 years old and a rising 11<sup>th</sup> grader at the Center for Engineering at Highland Springs High School. Some of my other extracurricular activities include Mu Alpha Theta (Math Honors Society), where I tutor students in math to prepare them for test, exams, and SOLs and soccer, where I play mid field. Some of my hobbies include desktop publishing, graphic communication & design, and playing guitar. Playing soccer, paint ball, laser tag are just a few of the activities I like to do in my spare time.



Charmaine Smith  
Parliamentarian

Hello Virginia TSA! I have participated in TSA since my freshman year of high school. In my chapter I have held the offices of Parliamentarian, Vice President and President, respectively. In addition to TSA, I also am a member of many other extracurricular activities in my school and work part-time.

As a person who enjoys solving problems, I look forward to the challenges the upcoming year will bring for the Executive Council and our general membership. If I can be of assistance to you please email me.



Carmen Cabrero  
Historian

Hello TSA! I am a freshman at Stafford Senior High School, and am looking forward to another great year on the Executive Council. This is my third year in TSA and I am planning on being a very active member throughout my high school career. Other than TSA, I am also on my school's softball team. I love sports and spend most of my free time being very active, whether that is hanging out with my friends, horseback riding, or just being at home and relaxing. I am very thrilled that this past year went so well, and I am ready to be dedicated to TSA and trying my hardest to make this next Technosphere just as successful as the last.



Matthew Ridgeway  
Sergeant-At-Arms

I have been a TSA member since 1999 and participated in 3 Fall Rallies, Regional Fairs, Technospheres, and National Conferences. I actually attended my first National TSA Conference in Nashville with my Dad and his chapter in 1993 when I was only four years old. I also served as the Valley Region's Sergeant-at-Arms from 2001 to 2003 (two terms). I turned 14 on May 16. I am very interested in history, especially Medieval Period. I enjoy playing strategy games and creating model terrain. I have an interest in architecture and engineering. I currently play on a travel soccer team and enjoy playing basketball. I am actively involved with my church youth group and am a member of the Shenandoah District Brethren Youth Council.



Lee Murphy  
Blue Ridge Region

I'm 15, a ninth grader attending the Halifax County High School in Halifax, Virginia. The past three years, I have been a part of TSA, having been introduced by my advisor. I was Reporter on the Blue Ridge Regional Council and served as Vice President for two years. I have attended three regional Spring Fairs, three Technospheres, and two National Conferences. I enjoy writing poems, hanging out with friends, surfing the net, playing Playstation. I play in the Babe Ruth baseball league on the Giants' team. I'm assistant clerk at a Baptist church I attend. I've served in previously in other organizations such as SCA, 4-H, Save the Children, the National Junior Honor Society, and FBLA. In eighth grade, I received the J. Marshall Swanson Citizenship Award, a great honor for community service.



Mary Mocsary  
Northern Region

I am 15 and a freshman at Stafford Senior High School. This is my fourth year in TSA. I've held the offices in my chapter of Reporter, Co-President, and President. I've held Regional Historian, Treasurer, Vice-President offices, and State Treasurer. I am currently Regional President and Chapter Secretary. I have attended the National Conference every year since joining TSA and have been a voting delegate for the State of Virginia. I have also won numerous awards in competitive events at the regional, state, and national level. My hobbies include playing softball, rock climbing, whitewater rafting, skiing, mountain biking, going to the movies, and hanging out with friends. I will make it my personal goal to serve you to the best of my ability.



Phoebe Chan  
South Central Region

I am a rising sophomore at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government and International Studies. I have been involved with TSA since middle school, and I enjoy competitive events and volunteering in and out of school. I have been volunteering at the Henrico Public Library for 3 years, and plan to continue for many more years to come. I excel in the subject of Mathematics and World Literature, and I enjoy the influence of other cultures and languages. I am currently taking Spanish and Latin, and plan to take more languages in the future. In my spare time, I like to read and play sports like soccer. I am a member in clubs such as Model United Nations and 06S, which is an association at our school that helps the community in need of assistance.



Laura Meade  
Southwestern Region

I am currently a sophomore at Lebanon High School in Lebanon, Virginia. I am a member of the Elk Garden United Methodist Church. I have been a member of TSA for the past two years and competed at Technosphere both years. I have served as Southwestern Regional Reporter for two years and presently serve as President for my region. Some hobbies I enjoy are reading novels, writing, being on the computer. I also enjoy playing Final Fantasy games on the Playstation. TSA will continue to be an important part of my High School activities. My goal as President is to see continued growth in our region.

No Picture Available Cassandra Hugate

Tidewater Region School: Mathews High School



Chris Senger  
Valley Region

I have been in TSA for five years. I am 17 years old. I currently attend Fort Defiance High School and the Shenandoah Valley Governor's School. In my spare time, which doesn't happen very often, I like to go camping and off-roading with friends, work on my Honda, or work on my Grandfather's farm. I also like to go camping with my parents in their motorhome. I am hoping to major in Aeronautical Engineering when I get out of high school and move south for college. I am looking forward to working with TSA and the responsibilities that will come with it.



Brittany Stansberry  
Immediate  
Past President

I am a freshman at Mary Washington College, where I am majoring in Marketing with a minor in Criminal Justice. I love playing soccer and am currently being recruited to play on the women's Varsity Soccer team there. After graduating from college, I plan to go on to law school, hopefully at one of our country's most prestigious Ivy League schools and major in Criminal Law. After securing my law degree, I hope to pursue my lifelong dream of practicing in the field of law. I have been a member of TSA for 7 years and enjoyed an eventful career full of leadership positions, competitive event awards, trips, and lifelong friends. I served as the President of Virginia TSA during the 2002-2003 year, which in all aspects, was a huge success. I encourage you, if you are not already a member, to join this wonderful organization.



Executive Council  
Advisors

Our advisors are a great part of our team! Our advisors help us prepare for meetings, get us there, and remind us of our duties. Special thanks go to our advisors. Don't forget to thank YOUR advisor for all of their support and hard work.

# Dear Whitney

By Whitney Hawkins, State Vice President

DEAR WHITNEY:

I have searched everywhere for a gray skirt for my TSA official attire.. I have found rows upon rows upon rows of gray slacks for guys, but no skirts. Any idea on how I can locate some?

-Miss N. Asckirt

Dear Miss N. Asckirt,

Ah yes, I see you have embarked on an adventure for all female TSA-ians, finding a gray skirt. Gray slacks are easy to find at most stores even places like Old Navy. It is, in fact, extremely difficult to find a gray skirt that you can buy. My first two years in TSA, I wore a skirt that my advisor owned. My advisor kept a TSA outfit closet to assist new officers with their attire needs. He eventually made me give it back, and I searched for a new one. It took me close to four months to find one and I counted myself lucky.

That journey gave me insight into the simplest and easiest way to get yourself a gray skirt that you actually *like*. The first step would be to purchase a bag of cotton seeds. Find a field no one seems to be using at the moment (you may want to watch it for a few days just to be sure). If you see no activity being done to the field, it is safe for you to plant your seeds. Not being a farmer, I would advise you just to take off your shoes and run barefoot through the field, scattering cotton seeds in your wake.

Next, you'll want to care for your cotton seeds by weeding and watering them. Once the cotton plants have grown up and look, to get technical for a moment, "fluffy", you'll want to pick the fluffy parts off. Then, run them through a cotton gin, complete the other approximately 1,647 steps needed to make it into cloth, dye it gray, and sew yourself a skirt. I promise this will be the most stress-free way to do it.

Seriously though, if you object to this, you can try stores like Khol's, Peebles, CATO, and JC Penny. You may have to buy a complete women's gray suit with it, but, speaking from experience, if you actually find one, you would cheerfully buy the whole company.

DEAR WHITNEY:

I've noticed at some TSA events, not everyone is in official attire. Who has to wear it and when?

-Constance Lee Inableyzir

Dear Miss Inableyzir,

Sometimes you might feel like knowing when to be in official attire is more complicating than the federal government. There are guidelines to the dress code but much has to do with factors like the competition you're in, your amount of free time at a conference, whether you can *find* your official attire, what sort of mood your advisor is in, and whether or not you happen to be locked out of your hotel room.

Unless you're in the contest Chapter Team or running for office there really isn't a time that you *have to be* in official dress unless your advisor decrees it. As a rule, though, it is always a good idea to wear it to your competitions and to meetings. It makes a nice impression on the judges, and there is no need to mess with what "business attire" and "casual attire" actually mean.

Believe it or not, once you've worn official attire for any length of time you get pretty used to it. I've been a state officer for three years, so I would be completely comfortable *sleeping, swimming, or probably even getting married in* my official attire, and I will probably be buried in it.



Whitney Hawkins, State Vice President, is starting her third year as a state officer. She is a freshman at Fort Defiance High School this year.

DEAR WHITNEY:

Help! My advisor has signed me up for "Tech Bowl", and I don't know anything about how to study! There is so much information.... Where do I start?

-Getinpri T. Twitchy

Dear Mr. Twitchy,

In my opinion, the best way to start will be resigning yourself to the fact that you will *never* know all there is to know about Technology Bowl. (Yes, I know some of you out there probably think the "Tech Bowl" tests and questions are easy enough to make you laugh so hard you pass out, but this column is for people who are not so lucky, like myself.)

Something that will help you out enormously is to get the Tech Bowl game on disk or CD. Check with your advisor for this. If you absolutely can't locate a copy, email me and I'll see what I can do about getting you one. Once you have it, divide the categories among your teammates and yourself so that everyone has three or four subjects they are responsible for knowing and knowing well. Get together weekly, or daily, or *hourly* if that's what it takes and review, review, review. Quiz each other about your topics, and that way you'll hopefully gain enough knowledge about your teammates' subjects to allow you to pass the test and get into the finals, where each can take over their area of expertise.

Finally, the obvious. Read magazines like Popular Science and National Geographic. Pay attention in your science and computer classes. Research areas that are interesting to you. Practice as much as you can, and you'll do fine.

*\*\*Note to members\*\* The people in this column don't actually exist by these names I've given them, but these are real questions people have asked me.*

*Have a question for Dear Whitney? Send all inquiries to Dear Whitney c/o Virginia TSA, [tsa@vatsa.org](mailto:tsa@vatsa.org).*

# The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual National TSA Conference in Orlando, Florida

By Phoebe Chan, South Central Regional President

The 25<sup>th</sup> annual National TSA Conference in Orlando, Florida was a great success, from the Rosen Centre Hotel location, to the overwhelming amount of competition of students from around the United States and the World including Germany. The Virginia delegation meeting was one of the many highlights of the conference. During one of the meetings, we took time off from competitive events and played a couple of games of Hollywood Squares with the alumni, members, and advisors. This gave the Virginia TSA members a chance to catch a break before heading to their rooms for the night.

Virginia TSA was a strong force at the conference with the second largest voting delegation. Virginians were very visible on stage as well. Former Virginia State President, Doug O'Reagan, performed well as the National Vice President. Our favorite part was watching say the "Speed Creed" in record time. His record was broken by National Reporter, Matt Stan. But who knew the TSA Creed could be said in less than 2 minutes! Congratulations to our very own advisor, Mr. Ed Sheets, who received the Honorary Life Member Award. It was great to see all of Mr. Sheet's accomplishments celebrated by the organization he has worked so hard to make successful.

Congratulations to the 2003-2004 Na-



*Our Virginia TSA National Presidential Candidate, Matt Walton, speaking to a potential voters.*

tional TSA Officer Team which consist of Amy Groner, President; Kimberly Jungermann, Vice President; Georgia Varlan, Secretary; Kim Eubanks, Treasurer; and Brandon Walters, Sergeant-at-Arms. We congratulate them on a job well done in their campaigns.

All students competed and did their best and I applaud all their efforts. A special congratulation goes out especially to the following people because they are National Champions.

Scott Schubert: CAD 3D-Engineering High School

Severin Odic: CAD Animation-Architectural High School

Isaac Hulvey: Computer Applications Middle School

Laysa Hedjar: Digital Photography Challenge Middle School

Matthew Ridgeway: Prepared Speech Middle School

Team from Middlesex High School: System Control Technology High School

Team from Stewart Middle School: System Control Technology Middle School

Blaire Hawkins: Technical Research and Report Writing High School

Anup Myneni: Technical Writing Challenge Middle School

Carl Lynn: Transportation Modeling High School

For a list of all Virginia winners, visit [www.vatsa.org](http://www.vatsa.org). Next year's National Conference is to be held in Nashville, Tennessee also known as the Music City USA. I hope all of you decide to attend the conference because I know it is going to be a great one. I hope everyone has a great time in TSA this year.



*The official PITSCO dragster.*



*The PITSCO track team prepares for the CO<sub>2</sub> dragster races at TSA National Competitions.*



*Students looking at different booths at the Technology Expo.*



*When not competing students hung out around the beautiful pool to enjoy the famous Florida sun.*

# Tool Tidbits

By: Amanda Ricks, State Reporter

## Amanda's Top 5 Website Picks about Technology and Learning

1. [www.techtv.com](http://www.techtv.com) (learn about the newest gadgets)
2. [www.cnet.com](http://www.cnet.com) (read reviews about the latest technology)
3. [www.pinkmonkey.com](http://www.pinkmonkey.com) (features over 395 booknotes/study guides/chapter summaries online)
4. [www.4tests.com](http://www.4tests.com) (Take SAT pre-test on-line)
5. [www.webpage66.com](http://www.webpage66.com) (Get tips on how to make a great web page)



### This Issue's Technology Review

\* If you would like to know more about a technology product, send all inquiries to Tool Tidbits c/o Virginia TSA, [tsa@vatsa.org](mailto:tsa@vatsa.org).\*

## CNET's Review on Microsoft Picture It Publishing Platinum

By Barbara Krasnoff, October 10, 2001

Picture It blows the competition away with its variety of features and easy-to-learn interface.

The good: Oodles of tools and features for editing images and creating special effects, such as brightness, tint, and red-eye adjustment; easy to use.

The bad: Intrusive promotional material.

You have to hand it to Microsoft. For all the company's faults, it certainly turned out a good product in Picture It. This easy-to-use photo editor packs a variety of editing tools, such as brightness, tint, and red-eye adjustment, and tops it all off with a sterling help system that includes animation and a manual. Our only major complaint: Microsoft sticks in occasional and irritating self-promotional ads. Intrusion aside, however, Picture It is our top choice for both novices and more ambitious experimenters.

*\*To read the rest of this review, visit <http://reviews.cnet.com/> \**

## Did You Know?

- ◆ The oldest computer was designed and run by Tom Kilburn and Freddie Williams (both in the UK) on June 21, 1948.
- ◆ The smallest computer virus (TrivialOW.13) was only 13 bytes.
- ◆ The largest plasma screen is 63 in (5ft 3in) and is manufactured by Samsung.
- ◆ The fastest computer in the world is capable of carrying out 35.6 trillion calculations per second.
- ◆ The species with the most chromosomes has 630 pairs of chromosomes per cell.
- ◆ Vodafone Group, plc. has the most cellphone subscribers, with more than 100 million worldwide in February 2002.
- ◆ The smallest operational telephone was created by Jan Piotr Krutewicz, of Munster, USA, on September 16, 1996. It measured just 47.5 x 10 x 21 mm (1.8 x 0.3 x 0.8 in)

\*Note: All of the facts listed above were provided by Guinness World Records, 2003\*

Look for more facts in the next Virginia Scene or go to <http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com>

# TSA Extras

## TSA Word Search

See if you can find all 22 words in this TSA Word Search

D T G D P Z B I O L V N K Q H C O B N Q  
 S E R G E A N T A T A R M S H J B R A G  
 T I V E X D R T A R I Z Z A W Q E I I V  
 O N W T A N U L H M V M R G P R U T R I  
 D Y E T T A B Z I L K M Y X U M M T O C  
 P S L D W M W Z D A A B J S O M F A T E  
 M M A O I A W I Y I M C A R M E N N S P  
 N A U D F S E E N T X E Y R A M J Y I R  
 F H R S F G E E H A R D N A S S A C H E  
 P S A L S E C R E T A R Y T R R H Y R S  
 V K T I A Y O U P W T N M E A R K I A I  
 H O B T O Y Z R J D U A P U I R A X I D  
 C M E G L R N A W B S O M S P L I O T E  
 H S Y E O G Y A B X R D U I B H C A B N  
 Q D Z O L T C D A T T D F Q Y X O M N T  
 K B M Z L N K K E S L W Q P H A I E G O  
 X U R X G F O R G Q X V L E D Z Z Z B U  
 E Z E S B N E A K C D R F I M O E F C E  
 I A B K D R G U B X Z L C D C T M S L V  
 E Y E N T I H W F M M E M E B R S O W Q

- AMANDA
- BLAIRE
- BRITTANY
- CARMEN
- CASSANDRA
- CHARMAINE
- CHRIS
- HISTORIAN
- LAURA
- WHITNEY
- LEE
- MARLAYNA
- MARY
- MATTHEW
- PARLIAMENTARIAN
- PHOEBE
- PRESIDENT
- REPORTER
- SECRETARY
- SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
- TREASURER
- VICE-PRESIDENT



## Caption Center

Below are 3 pictures from the Virginia TSA Archives. Write your own funny caption for each picture. Email your captions with the picture number to [tsa@vatsa.org](mailto:tsa@vatsa.org) prior to September 30, be sure to include your name, age, and chapter. All submissions will receive a small gift. The funniest captions will be featured in the next issue of the Virginia Scene.



## Scrambler

Below are scrambled pictures. Try to figure out what the picture is. Email your answers to [tsa@vatsa.org](mailto:tsa@vatsa.org). Be sure to include picture number, your name, age, and chapter. A winner will be drawn from all correct answers submitted by September 30. Correct answers will be listed in the next Virginia Scene.



# Running for Sergeant-at-Arms

By *Matthew Ridgeway, State Sergeant-at-Arms*

Have you ever considered running for a regional or state TSA office, but you weren't exactly sure what your responsibilities would be? I'd like to share with you, the duties of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

First, you must be able to memorize your part in the opening and closing ceremonies. For the Sergeant-at-Arms, this task is not very hard, as there are only two lines in the Sergeant-at-Arms' part of the opening ceremony. The Sergeant-at-Arms must also compile a guest list and introduce those guests at meetings and general sessions, as well as lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. For the closing ceremony, you need to memorize the TSA Creed and the state Sergeant-at-Arms participates in the Emblem Ceremony. Whether you are a regional or state Sergeant-at-Arms, you must set up the meeting room before the meeting.

At the annual National TSA Conference,

the state Sergeant-at-Arms must schedule any national officer candidates who requests a time during the Virginia Delegation meetings in which they can talk to the delegation about their platform. When the candidate arrives for the delegation meeting, the Sergeant-at-Arms gives the candidate any necessary instructions and then helps introduce the candidate to the delegation.

All state officers attend the New Officers' Workshop in May. At this workshop, you get to know the other officers and make plans for the upcoming year. During the course of the year, you must attend three Executive Council meetings, one each in September, December, and February. You must also prepare articles for each issue of the Virginia Scene. Each officer has several responsibilities at Technosphere including working in the enter-

prising booth, managing the general sessions, and being available to help where needed.

The responsibilities of the regional Sergeant-at-Arms will vary somewhat from one region to another, but will probably include attending two or three planning meetings and possibly leading a workshop at your regional Fall Leadership Rally. As a regional officer, you will have responsibilities at your regional Spring Fair as well.

I enjoy being a Sergeant-at-Arms because it gives me the opportunity to help determine the course for Virginia TSA. At the same time, however, my responsibilities are not as intimidating as the responsibilities of the President or Vice President. Sergeant-at-Arms is a great place to start.

Officer applications are available from Virginia TSA at [www.vatsa.org](http://www.vatsa.org).

## KEEP THE STATE INFORMED ABOUT YOUR CHAPTER!

Submit your *CHAPTER ARTICLES* for the *Virginia Scene* to [tsa@vatsa.org](mailto:tsa@vatsa.org)



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