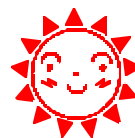


Project LIFE Enjoys a Successful Summer Program



Louisiana Tech's Carson-Taylor Hall was buzzing this summer with Project LIFERs. The United States Department of Education funded the two week summer institute that was held June 9-21, 2003. Project LIFE instructors for the summer were Sherri Ferrel, David Hough, Lisa Moody, and Carolyn Smith. Local teachers attending were as follows:

Debbie Bryan, Thomas Jefferson Upper Elementary

Lola Champagne, St. Thomas More High School

Tifarah Dial, Swayze Elementary School

Louise Dykes, Cut Off Elementary School

Robyn Francois, Robinson Elementary School

DeWanda Hamler, Martin Luther King Middle School

Susan Harris, Good Hope Middle School

Marla Hemperley, Dodson High School

Audrey Hudnall, Jack Hayes Elementary School

Susan Johnson, El Dorado High School

Susan Lawrence, Washington Middle School

Tammy McCloy, Barton Junior High School

Rosalind Mosley, Oak Terrace/JB Harville Alternative School

Cindy Pardue, Weston High School

Danzie Pierce, Robinson Elementary School

Daryl Savage, Monroe City Schools

Mark Spralding, Ruston Junior High School

Mariam Stone, Ruston Junior High School

Sharon Valentine, Mangham Elementary School

Each of these teachers is to be commended for the outstanding job they did over the summer and continue to do during the academic year follow up. Our hats are off to you all!!!!



LIFERs Hit the Mark with Expo Projects



The 2003-04 Project LIFE participants met together on Saturday, August 16, to present the annual Science Expo.

During the Expo, each teacher presented an individual research project that had been completed following the two week summer LIFE course. With presentation boards in place, each teacher gave an oral summary of the research that had been done for the project. The teachers went home with copies of each investigation so that they would have a resource set for their students. It was an outstanding day with excellent work presented by the entire group. Another terrific job!!



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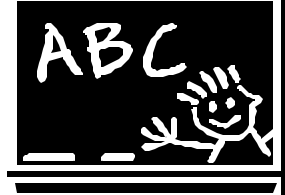
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Project LIFE Teachers Get on BLACKBOARD

As a part of the academic year follow up, the Project LIFE participants are engaged in an electronic learning community that is facilitated on the popular Blackboard program. Each month, Carolyn Smith, site coordinator for the project, posts a new topic or assignment for the teachers to consider. Because it is an electronic feature, everyone can log onto their own computers and work at their own pace posting their responses when it is most convenient for them. This is an excellent means to

maintain communication between the staff and the class as well as between the teachers themselves. The first assignment dealt with the Expo projects and has been completed by all teachers!!!!



HAVE YOU CHECKED
BLACKBOARD LATELY?????

LIFERs Begin Academic Year by Assessing Liquids and People

Project LIFERs, along with the LIFE Team, met at Louisiana Tech University on Saturday, September 20, 2003, for the first workshop of the academic year. The day was filled with learning experiences that featured properties of liquids as well as our ability to assess them. The participants engaged in each learning experience as well as an alternative assessment for each topic before receiving a complete handout to guide with the implementation of the lessons in the classroom. LIFERs that were in attendance were: **Debbie Bryan**, Thomas Jefferson Upper Elementary, **Lola Champagne**, St. Thomas More High School, **Tifarah Dial**, Swayze Elementary School, **Louise**



Dyke, Cut Off Elementary School, **Marla Hemperley**, Dodson High School, **Susan Johnson**, El Dorado High School, **Susan Lawrence**, Washington Middle School, **Rosalind Mosley**, Oak Terrace/JB Harville Alternative School, **Danzie Pierce**, Robinson Elementary School, **Mark Spradling**, Ruston Junior High School, **Mariam Stone**, Ruston Junior High School, and **Sharon Valentine**, Mangham Elementary School. Thanks for a GREAT JOB

**An expert at
anything was
once a
beginner.**



Money Matters



Susan Lawrence, Washington Middle School, received \$500 from the Arkansas Science Technology Authority to spend in her classroom. Way to go Susan!! **Robyn Francois, Robinson Elementary School** was the recipient of a Junior League Grant. She will be purchasing things for her science department. Super!!! **Sue Harris, Good Hope Middle School**, is also a Junior League Grant



winner. Sue plans to challenge her students with her new "Brain Game" purchases. Awesome!! **Rosalind Mosley, Oak Terrace/JB Harville Alternative School**, received two Alliance for Education Grants, Investigation Station and

Under the Sea. Fun, Fun!!! **Louise Dykes, Cut Off Elementary School**, will be spending money she received from an Environmental Education Grant that she was awarded spring 2003. Wonderful!!! **Susan Johnson, El Dorado High School**, is a part of two programs. One of the projects involves integration of a greenhouse into the curriculum. The other one is a cross curricular program with the play, *The Grass Harp*, involving science concepts as its focus. This involves the drama department, the art department, as well as the science department and the community. Fantastic job!!!



CSI: New Orleans LSTA 2003 Conference



The Louisiana Science Teachers Association will hold its annual state meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, December 4-6, 2003. The Radisson Hotel will serve as host site for the event. Short courses are being taught all day Thursday. A wide variety of Breakout Sessions will be offered on Friday and Saturday with many of your colleagues serving as presenters! Contact Carolyn Smith if you need more information about the conference or how to register. Hope to see you there!!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Tammy McCloy, Barton Junior High School, has been named Teacher of the Month for the El Dorado School District! Hard work pays off!! **Rosalind Mosley is Oak Terrace/JB Harville's Teacher of the Year.** Way to go!! **Sharon Valentine is not only Mangham Elementary School's Teacher of the Year, but she**



is also Richland Parish's Elementary Teacher of the Year!! Super job Sharon!!! **Cindy Pardue, Weston High School**, graduated with her Masters in Curriculum and Instruction on August 16, 2003. Fantastic!! **Susan Lawrence, Washington Middle School**, is the proud new grandmother of Addison Lawrence Dumas. Addison was born on October 9, 2003. He weighed in at 7lbs 2 1/2 oz and measured 20" long. He will be an excellent long term observation!!!



Animal Adaptations and LIFERS



Project LIFERs gathered at LA Tech on Saturday, October 18, for the 2nd workshop of the academic year. The day focused on learning experiences that centered around animal adaptations with special emphasis placed on structure and function. Teachers worked in their cooperative groups and engaged in the learning cycle as they explored different methods of guiding students toward a true understanding of adaptations. Special thanks to **Tammy McCloy, Barton Junior High School**, for being an excellent sport in the "Dress a Beaver" activity. It really set the tone for a fun day!!! Once again, Project LIFERs did a super job and our thanks go out to each and every one who participated so enthusiastically!!!



LIFE SUPPORTS (items from and about our LIFERs)

Debbie Bryan, Thomas Jefferson Upper Elementary, had her students get “up close

and personal” with worms, gummy worms that is. Her students were making observations about the candy worms before they started with the real worms. Students and teachers were very excited!!! **Lola Champagne’s** students at **St. Thomas More High School** have been using card sorts to better understand energy. By the discussion that was taking place, true understanding was happening. Great job!! **Tifarah Dial, Swayze Elementary School,** shared how

she was able to bring science into her math class by having her students help with her Expo project. She had her students measuring everything and recording data. The students were very excited about helping their teacher. Super way to incorporate math and science!! **Louise Dykes, Cut Off Elementary School,** has her students testing the water in Bayou La Fourch. The bayou is conveniently located in front of the school. The students will test every two weeks for salinity and dissolved oxygen. The results are then posted in the classroom as well as on the website

Bayouside Classroom, sponsored by LUMCOM. The students are so excited about collecting real data. Little scientists at work, how exciting!!! **Robyn Francois, Robinson Elementary School,** is not only making

LIFELINE news, but her students have been spotted in the *Monroe News-Star* as well. This is what happens when a teacher involves her students in good science investigations. These investigations are evident all around her room. Great way to get students hooked on



science!! **DeWanda Hamler, Martin Luther King Middle School,** is using marshmallows for something other than smores. Her class has been discovering dominant and recessive genes by using marshmallows and pipe cleaners. Teachers will do anything to get understanding to take place!!!

Sue Harris, Good Hope Middle School, has been spotted using M&Ms to teach her students mean, median, mode and range. A very delicious and understandable lesson was taught by using something very motivating. These are a great tool for motivations!! **Marla Hemperley’s** students at **Dodson High School** have been stacking colorful liquids in test tubes. The students had a better understanding of density and why this happened after the discussion that took place. The

stacking always mystifies students. Keep up the good work Marla!! **Audrey Hudnall, Jack Hayes Elementary School,** is practicing long term observations with her 4th graders. They have Wisconsin Fast Plants growing in their classroom. The students are busily keeping a journal of what is happening. Before long they will be buzzing little bees pollinating the flowers! Super job Audrey!!

Susan Johnson, El Dorado High School, has her students “doing” science every day!! They were spotted discovering microscopes and all the functions of these wonderful science tools. Keep “doing”

science Susan!! **Susan Lawrence’s** classroom at **Washington Middle School** could be mistaken for a zoo.

Lions, tigers and bears, oh my!! Susan does not have these critters, but she does have hedge hogs, mealworms, fish, frogs, geckos, hamsters, and guinea pigs!! As if these critters are not enough, the students have been playing with “candy critters” to get a better



LIFE SUPPORTS (continued)

understanding of population sampling. The students felt like real field biologists. Awesome room!!! **Rosalind Mosley, Oak Terrace/JB Harville Alternative School**, had her students make models of plant and animal cells. The



models that were displayed were very understandable and creative. Rosalind's students have taken off with card sorts. They are even asking to make their own. Way to go

Rosalind!!! **Tammy McCloy, Barton Junior High School**, has had her students using boiled eggs as a model of the earth. Students were amazed that something as simple as boiled egg could help them understand the earth.



Tammy also reports that her students are loving concept maps! Wonderful!!! **Cindy Pardue, Weston High School**, has her 1st graders classifying animals. She took her students on a power point animal safari hunt. Cindy not only taught science with this activity, but she also was able to teach reading, spelling, and math!!



Go Cindy!!! **Danzie Pierce, Robinson Elementary School**, loves the outside and so do his students. Danzie's class has been spotted outside looking for critters. Rumors have it that his classroom is becoming a resting spot for lots of critters. Keep them interested and they will



learn!!! **Mark Spralding, Ruston Junior High School**, reports that mini science



boards are a big hit with his students. Students do an investigation and then put the findings on the mini boards. These are not as overwhelming as the big science board, but contain the same information. He is able to display the boards in his classroom with ease. Super!!!

Mariam Stone, Ruston Junior High School, has everything from making models of rocks to making M&M graphs going on in her classroom. Students were using a foldable to explain the rock cycle. Based on the finished product, there was lots of rock understanding that took place. Just another way to engage students, way to go Mariam!! **Sharon Valentine, Mangham Elementary School**, has been



chasing crickets around her 1st grade classroom. Her class has been discovering lots of interesting things about insects. During the cricket observation, a few crickets decided to be observed by another student and jumped across the room. These 1st grade students can be heard singing a lovely tune about insect body parts. Awesome job Sharon!!!!



Shoot for the moon,
Even if you miss you will
Land among the stars!



BULLETIN BOARD

Find Answers to Your Students' Questions on Science Friday
<http://www.sciencefriday.com/kids/>

Science Friday is a weekly science talk show that focuses on science topics that are in the news but more importantly features a panel of expert guests. These experts make reference to the science standards in their discussions. Topics deal with such issues such as monkey pox and SARS.

- Do your students ask how can monkey pox be traced to the pet trade?
- How are the prairie dogs that transmitted the monkey pox disease to people in the U.S. being linked to a bug from an African rat?
- Did the dogs come into contact with in a pet shop?
- Did SARS jump from civet cats to the people who handled their meat?

Answers to these questions are found at Science Friday.

Access Education Literature and Resources with the Educational Resources Information Center

<http://www.ericse.org/>

The Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) is a national information system funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences to provide access to education literature and resources. Science education resources are available for educators to use in their classroom to enhance student learning. ERIC also provides resources for parents and children, including homework and science fair companions, as well as web links for families.

Reform Science Education with the Help of the Center for Science Education

<http://www2.edc.org/cse/products/default.asp>

The Education Development Center's Center for Science Education (CSE) has collected extensive resources to support teachers in their science education reform efforts. Resource titles include Connecting Elementary Science and Literacy; Evidence of Understanding: An Introduction to Assessments in K-12 Curriculum; and Translating Ideas into Practice. CSE also provides information concerning its published curriculum programs such as Insights in Biology and Discovering Nature with Young Children.

Mars Exploration Rover Mission Live Online Chat <http://www.space-explorers.com/communications/chats.html>

Teachers, students and space enthusiast are invited to submit questions about the Mars Exploration Rover Mission chat with Dr. Catherine Weitz on Thursday, November 6 from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Eastern Time. The Mars Exploration Rovers are en route to Mars and are expected to land in January of 2004. Weitz is the Program Scientist for the Mars Exploration Rover (MER) and Mars Express missions. She is a visiting scientist at NASA Headquarters and her home institution is the Planetary Science Institute in Arizona. Space Explorers, Inc sponsors the chat.

IMPORTANT PEOPLE



Take this quiz:

- Name the five wealthiest people in the world.
- Name the last five Heisman trophy winners.
- Name the last five "Miss Americas."
- Name ten people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer prize.
- Name the last half dozen Academy Award winners for best actor and actress.
- Name the last decade's World Series winners.

How did you do? Remember these are no second-rate achievers. They are the best in their fields. But the applause dies. Awards tarnish. Achievements are forgotten. Accolades and certificates are buried with their owners. Few remember yesterday's headliners!

Here's another quiz. See how you do on this one:

- List three teachers who aided your journey through school.
- Name five friends who have helped you through a difficult time.
- Name two people who have taught you something worthwhile.
- Think of ten people who have made you feel appreciated and special.
- Think of ten people with whom you enjoy spending time.
- Name half a dozen heroes whose stories have inspired you.

Easier??? Those who make a difference in our lives are not those with the most credentials, money, or awards. They are the ones who care the most.....

