



Fall and Winter School Scene

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Georgia Technology Student Association

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President's Message

Dear Members,

I hope all of you have been enjoying the school year so far as well as the many conferences we have held. I hope each of you have gained skills in both the leadership and technology fields. I know the end of the year is almost upon us, I just want to say how excited all of us are for our 2014 State Leadership Conference. I wish each of you the best of luck in your events and hope that most of you have at least started your events. This year has been the best one yet and I can't wait to see all of your enthusiastic faces at the State Leadership Conference as we capture the true "Spirit of Innovation".

-Cynthia McIntire

Georgia TSA State President



Thank You to Mr. Price, Mr. Crenshaw, and the Board of Directors!



Steve Price
Georgia TSA
Executive Director



Georgia TSA 13-14 Board of Directors



Mark Crenshaw
ETE Program Specialist
& GATSA State Advisor

Price's Point

Amazing, outstanding, tremendous....where's my thesaurus? It's going to take one to describe what I'm seeing in Georgia TSA these days. Our membership is growing; our conferences are getting better and better. We've seen record attendance at this year's first three conferences. Our chapters are being seen as leaders in their schools and communities. We have some of the best and most talented people working for us on our Board of Directors and State Officer Team. We are working together with ITEA to give our programs the most up-to-date information and support for our Technology Education teacher/advisors. TSA students are even teaching teachers these days on how to really do STEM!



Hello, Georgia TSA. The Georgia Technology Student Association looks forward to continuing to grow and offer exciting and valuable experiences for you. I am Steve Price, your State Executive Director and a 32-year veteran engineering & technology education teacher/TSA advisor on both middle and high school levels in Georgia. I have served several times on our Board of Directors as President and have also held that position on the National TSA Board. I'm also a member of the National TSA Competitive Regulations Committee. You could say that I have seen this association from several different directions. It looks just as strong and exciting from all sides. It is indeed an honor to serve the association that has provided thousands of my students with experiences that they still see as milestones and turning points in their lives, even twenty or more years later. We are fortunate to have the network of dedicated and professional educators that have built this association into one of the most vibrant and worthwhile student organizations in the country and in other countries as well.

TSA has made its presence known through service and community involvement. Our members and their chapters are about more than just competition events. I hope you have done something that has benefited others this year.

You should be preparing for the upcoming 2014 State Leadership Conference in March and further down the road, the TSA National Conference in Washington D.C. at the end of June. These are experiences that my former students, dating back to the 1980, still talk about as being lifetime memories. I hope to see you making your own memories there.

Make sure that people in your school system and community know about your chapter and see the value it has.

Don't take your advisor for granted. They dedicate time away from their families to spend with their TSA family. Not every school is so fortunate.

Tech Day 2013 Summary

Tech Day was a huge success, bringing over 2,100 members to Perry, Georgia and the Georgia National Fair. With extreme catapults, dragsters as fast as lightning, and Rube Goldberg Designs out of this world, this year's Tech Day was one for the one for the books. The morning began with Rhett Laubach teaching the Georgia TSA delegation the Golden Rule. Then, students went out in the fairgrounds to experience all of the adventures the fair had to offer, including prize games against your friends, riding the roller coasters you're dare you to, or eating all of the funnel cakes your stomach can hold. Of course, the highlight of the event was the highly anticipated Awards Session where the reward for that project you've been working on for months finally comes. With your event so close to being called, and knowing that there can there can only be one winner, you're sure to begin to feel the butterflies. The Lowndes High Chapter earned the title of Superior Chapter, and the Reserve Superior Chapter title was presented to Monroe Area High School. Congratulations to all of the following first place winners from Tech Day 2013:

- Georgia TSA Pin Design Challenge- Dylan Meyer, Morgan County Middle School
- Membership Recruitment Middle School- Morgan County Middle School
- Membership Recruitment High School- Lowndes High School
- Promotional Design- Amy Zhai, Forsyth Central High School
- Shirt Design- Bailey Noles, Monroe Area High School
- Architectural Design- Kyle Mann, Cambridge High School
- Best in Show Dragster- Parth Patel, Lowndes High School
- Catapult Design Challenge- Jonesboro High School
- Green Design Challenge- Chamblee Charter High School
- Rube Goldberg Challenge—South Forsyth High School
- Structural Bridge Challenge- Shayan Kianpour, Druid Hills Middle School



VEX: Toss Up

VEX Robotics offers students an exciting platform for learning about areas rich with career opportunities spanning science, technology, engineering and math. Beyond these STEM principles, VEX Robotics encourages teamwork, leadership and problem solving among groups. The VEX platform is expanding rapidly and is now found in middle schools, high schools and university labs around the globe. As a matter of fact, the robotics program is found in numerous Georgia schools affiliated with TSA.

During the 2013 Georgia TSA LeaderCon conference on Jekyll Island, sixty teams competed against the best of the best robots. It was a weekend full of competition, strategizing, and awards. The following teams proved to be top notch: Ware County High School Team 2105A - Design Award; Tucker High School Team 1320A - Excellence Award; and the alliance of SFHS Fable Bots Team 1961C, Dunwoody HS Team 1264B, and Nerd Dogs Team 5854C - tournament champions. Congratulations to all teams who participated, and we look forward to seeing even more competitors through the year!

LeaderCon 2013

With one of the largest number of members in attendance in FLC history, LeaderCon 2013 was a huge success. LeaderCon at Jekyll Island provided much for members to participate in. Students competed in VEX Robotics and First Lego League competitions, took the Statesman Award Exam, watched the Armada Boat Race, spent some quality time with their chapter and much more. Leadership sessions hosted by alumni, advisors, and former and current state officers enriched member's leadership skills. Technical sessions



provided skills and knowledge for success in state conference competitions. Keynote speaker, Eddie Slowikowski, inspired students to strive for their goals in life. Through heartening stories and dance, he encouraged members to be successful leaders. With many high achievements, including winning a gold medal for the US Track and Field team, he travels the country with personal anecdotes that translate into action for audiences everywhere. After a long day of upgrading their "Identity Discs" (in honor of the conference's *Tron* theme), members let loose at the annual dance, "A Georgia TSA Blacklight Affair". The dance was enough to get members pumped for the long-awaited award ceremony, where many chapters went home with trophies and all chapters left with a longing for the annual state conference.



National TSA Week With Morrow High School

National TSA Week was an enrapturing experience that was filled with jovial and unforgettable moments. Tech Day marked a wonderful beginning to National TSA Week and left all members wondering what more excitement Morrow TSA had in store for them. Although we did not place in all three competitions we participated in, we did achieve 8th place in architectural design! We all congratulated our members for their determination and effort they offered for their competitions. The Perry Fair left our members, officers, and advisor longing to extend our time there. "All good things come to an end." However, the following day, Morrow TSA planned a celebration in favor of our principal and National TSA Week by awarding all of our members with food and drinks, but even so, we decided to be productive and added numerous updates on our organization's activities. Everyone enjoyed their phenomenal experience with National TSA Week and is yearning for next year's to come by sooner!



-Hanh Nguyen

Hanh is Morrow TSA's chapter reporter. She has been an invested member of Georgia TSA for two years.

A Winning Website

For those of you that have visited Georgia TSA's website recently, you know that something spectacular has occurred at gatsa.org. A few months ago, Mr. Price, our Executive Director, and GA TSA Alumni Ryan MacDonald and Sam Slater (formerly of Parkview High School and Lowndes High School, respectively) began to totally redesign the Georgia Technology Student Association's webpage. With an easier-to-navigate setup and overall higher capability than the previous webpage, the new and improved one personifies the innovation and technological advancement that our association represents. However, the improvements don't end there. Spoiler alert: State Conference participants will be able to be notified via cell phones if they are finalists during the conference, as well as see judges scoring in their events online afterwards.



Ryan MacDonald



Sam Slater

Leukemia and Lymphoma Society

Every four minutes, someone, somewhere in the United States is diagnosed with a blood cancer like Leukemia or Hodgkin's Lymphoma. In 2013 alone, it is estimated that over 126,000 people will be diagnosed with Leukemia or Hodgkin's Lymphoma, and over 43,000 of those people will lose their lives to one of these brutal killers. However, thanks to an amazing organization called the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, there is still hope. The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS) is the largest voluntary health agency dedicated to these violent blood cancers. Their mission is to cure these cancers and improve the quality of life of patients and their families. Georgia TSA has partnered with them for nearly a decade to raise money for patients diagnosed with these diseases, and we are so proud of our members on raising as much money as they have in just this school year! Keep it up!



**The Leukemia &
Lymphoma Society**[®]
Fighting Blood Cancers

The Alumni Experience

The reason I came back as an alumni member was that I wanted to give back whatever I could to an organization that had given so much to me. Whether it was helping CORE run just a little more smoothly or presenting at Fall Leadership, I was glad that I was about to help make the experiences better. From performing in the talent show at CORE to presenting sessions, judging the Armada Boat Race, and helping raise some money by getting dunked in the pool, the experiences I have had as an alumni are pretty great. I view coming back as an alumni as a possible opportunity to come back and talk to current students and be open book, where they can ask anything, and we teach them as much as we can. Volunteering at these conferences has also allowed me the opportunity to reconnect with friends that I met through TSA that I had not seen in months and catch up. I truly hope that any current members that are reading this will try their hardest to come back as alumni and help out at these conferences, it truly does make a difference.



-Kush Bhatia

Kush served Georgia TSA as its 2012-2013 1st Vice President. He was an active Georgia TSA member throughout high school and still serves our organization as an alumni.

Alumni Spotlight: Chris Meeks

Mr. Christopher Meeks first joined TSA at the beginning of his freshman year of high school in 1997 and was active all four years of high school. He served as the 1999-2000 State Treasurer and the 2000-2001 State President. In addition to serving on two state officer teams, he was an active state and national competitor, winning numerous individual and team awards. "Being in TSA," he says, "presented an environment where I could challenge my abilities and knowledge while creating great friendships with my fellow chapter members as well as many other students across the state and nation."



After graduating from high school, he attended Georgia Tech. In 2005, he graduated with highest honors with a degree in management and certificates in finance and accounting. After college, he began law school at Emory University School of Law, where he was accepted into a special program for the development of new technologies called Technical Innovation: Generating Economic Results (or TI:GER for short). His team, dubbed "AccelerEyes", was very successful, winning top honors at the 2008 Georgia Bowl business plan competition at Kennesaw State University and the 2008 Georgia Tech Business Plan Competition. The company which formed out of this team is an active and growing company which produces software that enables scientists, engineers, and others to use the power of graphical processors for a wide range of computing tasks.

He graduated from law school in May of 2008 with honors and in the top ten percent of his class. Unfortunately, the economic downturn had just begun and jobs were scarce, but, with a bit of ingenuity, he was able to find a job in New Orleans, Louisiana, where he was fortunate enough to work on some very complex and important cases, including the failure of the Superdome roof during Hurricane Katrina and the explosion of the Deepwater Horizon in 2010. He says he enjoyed his time in New Orleans, but he always planned on coming back to Georgia. In June of 2010, he found a job back in Atlanta. Since moving back, he has participated in a number of large cases in Atlanta as well, including the recent CRCT cheating scandal in the Atlanta Public Schools. Currently, he is working to grow his practice to specialize in providing support for insurance companies that face claims for various types of environmental pollution.

At present, Mr. Meeks lives in Snellville, Georgia with his wife, Katherine, and his dog, Cooper.



Spotlight Chapter: Ola High School

The Ola High School TSA & VEX Robotics Team is a group of young, motivated, aspiring engineers in Grades 9-12 who are dedicated to engineering, production, and manufacturing. Over the last year, our TSA chapter has quadrupled in size from ten active members to forty engaged members. Executing the daily tasks of such a large organization is a constant job and requires a multitude of skills. At the head of our ship lies Mrs. Schmitt. Along with TSA and Vex, she is enrolled in a doctoral program and is currently writing her dissertation. With the added stress running such a large team, TSA becomes a full time job. It requires a lot of time in which she designates to the chapter officers that prepare several events for our members. These events include team building activities such as True Colors™ and dinners for our members to grow together and build friendships. In addition, the Ola High School TSA chapter invites its members to take part in various fundraising opportunities, so they have the ability to participate in many of TSA's events. (Ola is a Henry County School near McDonough.)

While this chapter was just founded last year, it has already succeeded in a multitude of ways. The chapter officers presented a session on developing a program of work at CORE and began a new fundraiser at Fall Leadership by raising \$100 in less than five minutes to put their advisor in a pool. Through VEX competitions the team has brought home 11 trophies and qualified and attended the VEX World Championship last year. Because of growth, the team now has four VEX robots, of which three have now qualified for the State Championship and hope to qualify the fourth.

While there are trial and tribulations with having a large team and growth so quickly, the team has developed into a family. Our team has created a website, participates in social media, and has recruited a number of sponsors from the community. Focus on what is important and the common ground that brings us together always brings us together and keeps us focused.

Tyler Patrick, Ola HS Public Relations
Tyler@ohtsa.com
www.ohtsa.com



Holiday Service Project: Lowndes High School

Christmastime is known as the time for giving and sharing, and Lowndes High School's TSA chapter is doing just that. With Christmas coming up faster than Saint Nick on his sleigh, LHS TSA is helping to make sure that every kid gets to experience the magical joy of Christmas. While most kids look forward to running to the tree early Christmas morning to unwrap their presents, due to economic struggles, some children receive nothing. Lowndes High TSA is fighting to fix that issue. Four teams of LHS TSA members are participating in Lowndes High School's "Shop With A Viking", where teams of 3-5 students are paired with a child who may not have much of a Christmas at home, and give them the happiness of the season. These LHS TSA members will ride on a bus with the child to Wal-Mart, where they will have \$100 to spend on themselves and their family. Afterwards, the students will ride back to Lowndes High School where the wrapping presents, cookie decorating, and fun begins. When the day comes to an end, the kids are sure to walk out with a grin plastered across their face knowing that they and their family will have a very Merry Christmas.

-Trevor Terry

Trevor is currently a freshman at Lowndes High School. He has previously held the offices of chapter vice president, treasurer and currently hold the position of chapter reporter. Trevor has been an active member of Georgia TSA for four years.

Membership Report

So far, the 2013-14 school year has proved to be a great year for our organization. Already, we have held two conferences that have broken their respective all-time attendance records: C.O.R.E., with over 600 chapter officers and advisors, and Tech Day 2013, which is now the largest event in Georgia TSA history with over 2,100 in attendance. This year's Fall Leadership Conference was one of the largest in years with over 1,100 in attendance!! As of early January, Georgia TSA has the most affiliated chapters in the nation, the most high school chapters, the most middle school members and currently rank 2nd with 33400 members overall!!! Keep it up, members and advisors of Georgia TSA, and don't forget to update your affiliation rosters with new members as the year continues. Let's keep our association in its rightful place as the greatest state delegation in TSA!

Welcome to TSA!

Armuchee Middle School - Armuchee, GA

Bainbridge High School - Bainbridge, GA

Baker Middle School - Columbus, GA

Coffee County Middle School - Douglas, GA

Dekalb High School Of Technology - Decatur, GA

DeRenne Middle School - Savannah, GA

East Coweta High School - Sharpsburg, GA

G.W. Carver STEM High School - Columbus, GA

Harris County High School - Hamilton, GA

Lanier Middle School - Sugar Hill, GA

McNair Middle School - Atlanta, GA

Miller Grove Middle School - Lithonia, GA

Rabun County High School - Tiger, GA

Richmond County Technical Career Magnet School - Augusta, GA

The STEM Academy at Bartlett - Savannah, GA

What to Expect At State

The Georgia TSA State Leadership Conference will be held March 13-15, 2014, at The Classic Center in Athens, Georgia. For those who have never experienced the excitement of State Conference, make sure you are prepared for 3 full days of competitions, leadership opportunities, exploring downtown Athens, and attending a conference with not one, but over 2,000 of your fellow GA TSA peers! State is one of the most competitive conferences held throughout the year. With over 65 events to choose from, there are many opportunities to unleash your spirit of innovation, ranging from prepared speech and music production to VEX robotics and fashion design. This is an indescribable experience that can only be described as the apex of the Georgia TSA year, so be sure to make plans to attend Georgia TSA's State Leadership Conference on March 13-15 in Athens, Georgia!



Fall/Winter 2013-2014 Calendar of Events

January 3-4, 2014: CTSO State Officer Mid-Year Training- FFA-FCCLA Camp, Covington, GA

Feb. 7-8, 2014: Joint Meeting – Executive Committee & Board of Directors, Athens, GA

Feb.11, 2014: CTSO Legislative Expo at the State Capital.

February 14, 2014: Deadline – Registration for State , Outstanding Student Applications, Achievement Awards, Tommy Pitchford Scholarship, State Officer Candidate Forms, Board of Directors Applications, and Posted Pre-Conference Competitive Events

March 1, 2014: State Officer Candidate Interviews, Ola High School, McDonough, GA

March 13-15, 2014: State Leadership Conference, The Classic Center, Athens, GA

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