Reservation Requests for 2007-2008 Student Programs

The Ruth Patrick Science Education Center’s K-12 Student Programs offerings for 2007-2008 will be posted online on April 13, 2007. Teachers may download the 2007-2008 catalog and submit their reservation requests online at http://rpsec.usca.edu/. Print brochures and request forms will also be mailed to schools the following week. Request forms may be mailed to the RPSEC or faxed to (803) 641-3615.

Teachers may request up to four programs for the school year but, pending funding, this number may be reduced—so please prioritize your requests.

Last year we received many more requests than we were able to serve. We will schedule teachers’ requests, subject to availability, in the order specified on the reservation request form.

The deadline to submit reservation requests is Friday, June 15, 2007 at 5:00 PM. Due to the volume of anticipated requests, it is highly unlikely that late requests will be filled. Requests received after June 15 will be placed on a waiting list.

Thank you for your understanding!

CSI SOLUTIONS

On March 1, 2007 at 4:38 PM, police responded to a call for help at the Basset residence. Scotty Basset, age 10, reported that his dog Sandy was missing. Sandy is a 4-year old yellow lab mix who weighs approximately 40 pounds and wears a blue collar. The dog was last seen at 3:15 PM when Scotty left the house for soccer practice.

There was no sign of forced entry. A note was found taped to the front door. The note appeared to have gotten wet in a rainstorm and some of the ink had run. Neighbors were questioned and there were no eyewitnesses. However, two neighbors reported hearing the sound of a car or a motorcycle at approximately 3:30 PM. The police have identified six suspects: a teacher, Mrs. Lotta Lerning; a baker, Mr. John Dough; a policewoman, Ms. Lauren Order; an artist, Ms. Ima Sculptor; a construction worker, Mr. Bill DeHouse; and a librarian, Mrs. Rita Book.

Evidence has been collected from the crime scene including a ransom note, hairs and fibers from each of the suspects, a mystery powder, and a soil sample mixture. CSRA fifth grade students visiting the RPSEC are working together this spring to analyze the evidence, fill in a Data Collection chart, and determine which of the suspects kidnapped the dog.

The Ruth Patrick Science Education Center has developed a new program that supports Grade 5 physical science standards. The students use chromatography, sifting, solutions, and microscopes in a simulated crime scene investigation. Teachers who are interested in learning more about this program are encouraged to sign up for CSI Solutions next year.
The Ruth Patrick Science Education Center is excited to announce that the Camp Invention program, an exciting weeklong summer day experience for children entering grades one through six, will be returning the week of June 18-22, 2007. The program is designed to inspire creativity and inventive-thinking through loads of hands-on activities and F-U-N! Children will participate in five age-appropriate modules each day, which include: disassembling old machinery and using parts to make their own inventions in the I Can Invent™ module; traveling around the world to deliver secret documents in the The Wild Blue Y’Under™ module; building communication centers to respond to alien radio signals in the Tape Me to Your Leader™ module; using forensic science as crime scene investigators in the Solve It: The Missing Inventor’s Log™ module; and creating mind-boggling new games in the AMAZing Games™ module. The Camp Invention program integrates science, mathematics, history, and the arts in an exciting environment conducive to learning – disguised as fun!

This year, the Camp Invention program is being hosted by the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center. Serving as Director, John Hutchens and local certified teachers will lead the curricula each day. Enthusiastic college students will serve as counselors. The program features a low staff-to-child ratio, with one staff member for every eight children.

The registration fee includes snacks and a cool T-shirt. Register with a buddy to receive a discount off the base registration price; alumni are eligible for even greater savings! Call (800) 968-4332 today to inquire about savings opportunities for your family. Registration is limited to 110 children. Don't let your child miss all the fun! For more information, visit rpsec.usca.edu/students/campinvention/ or www.campinvention.org or contact John Hutchens, at (803) 641-3474.
SC Regional Future City Competition

Teams from 18 South Carolina middle schools participated in the South Carolina Regional Future City Competition on January 27th at USC Aiken. Paul Knox Middle School from North Augusta, SC, took home first place with their city, “Knoxonia.” The students – Sydney Scaggs, Julie Mundy, and Logan Smith – teamed up with their teacher Helen Campbell, and volunteer engineer mentor Thomas Edison to win this year’s competition. The “Knoxonia” team received a trip to the National Engineers Week Future City Competition in Washington, D.C. where they had a chance to compete against the other 35 regional winners from across the country.

At the SC Regional Competition, second place went to Our Lady of Peace School, from North Augusta, SC for their Future City “PIE.” Kennedy Middle School from Aiken, SC, took third place honors for their Future City, “Southern Exposure.”

Our sponsors presented several special awards:

American Nuclear Society-Savannah River Section
(Most Innovative Power Generation System)
Midland Valley Prep, “Juscadia”

American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) - Central
Savannah River Section
(Most Energy Efficient Design)
Our Lady of Peace, “PIE”

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc
(Most Innovative Application of Electrical Systems)
League Academy, “Jamadax® View”

American Society for Engineering Management - CSRA Chapter -
(Best Engineering System Integrations)
New Ellenton Middle School, “Colli Island”

Project Management Institute - Savannah River Chapter
(Best Project Management Plan)
Palmetto Middle School, “Protocol”

Washington Group International
(Best Essay)
Paul Knox Middle School, “Knoxonia”

National Management Association - Savannah River Site Chapter
(Student Choice Award)
A. L. Corbett Middle School, “Poseidon”

National Management Association - Savannah River Site Chapter
(Best Model)
Cardinal Newman Middle School, “Coastalina”

Association for the Advancement of Cost Engineering International
(Best Planned City)
Kennedy Middle School, “Southern Exposure”

American Society for Mechanical Engineers - CSRA Section
(Excellence in Futuristic Concepts)
Evans Middle School, “E”

The SC Regional Future City Competition is hosted and managed by the RPSEC and Washington Savannah River Company.

Masters Degree in Educational Technology

Program Moving to On-line format

The Educational Technology program at University of South Carolina Aiken (USCA) and the University of South Carolina (USC) Columbia is accepting applications for enrollment. There has been interest in moving the program to an on-line format and this process is well underway. For more information visit: http://edtech.usca.edu/.

The focus of the program is to develop capabilities essential to the effective design, evaluation, and delivery of technology-based instruction and training (e.g., software development, multimedia development, assistive technology modifications, web-based development, and distance learning) in order to (1) prepare educators to assume leadership roles in the integration of educational technology into the school curriculum, and (2) provide graduate-level instructional opportunities for several populations (e.g., classroom teachers, corporate trainers, educational software developers) that need to acquire both technological competencies and understanding of sound instructional design principles and techniques.

Anyone interested in enrolling in this program should contact Karen Morris at (803) 641-3489.

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<th>Foundational Core Courses (12 hours)</th>
<th>Technology Core Courses (15 hours)</th>
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<td>AERM/EDRM 700 – Introduction to Research in Education</td>
<td>AEET/EDET 703 – Design and Development Tools I</td>
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<tr>
<td>AEET/EDET 709 – Applications of Learning Principles</td>
<td>AEET/EDET 735 – Design and Evaluation of Information Access and Delivery</td>
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<tr>
<td>AEET/EDET 722 – Instructional Design and Assessment</td>
<td>AEET/EDET 746 – Management of Technology Resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>AETE 731 – Instructional and Informational Applications of Technology or</td>
<td>AEET/EDET 753 – Design and Evaluation of Information Access and Delivery</td>
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<td>EDTE 731 – Integration of Technology and Instruction</td>
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<th>Electives (9 hours chosen from the following courses)</th>
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<tr>
<td>AEET/EDET 780 – Seminar in Educational Technology</td>
<td>AEET/EDET 650,651 – Internship in Educational Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>AEET/EDET 652 – Design and Evaluation of Games and Simulations</td>
<td>AEET/EDET 703 – Design and Development Tools II</td>
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<td>MGAT 772 – Employee and Organizational Development</td>
<td>AEET/EDET 793 – Advanced Instructional Design and Development</td>
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<td>EDRM 736 – Program Evaluation</td>
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The Ruth Patrick Science Education Center thanks the following individuals, corporations, and organizations for their generosity and support of our mission by being a Friend of the RPSEC. For information on how you can become a Friend, please call Janice Weeks at (803) 641-3769.

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Barbara and Rodney Snoak
Cindy Sparling
USC Aiken Advancement Office
Fran White
Mary Sue Wyatt
Jody Yates
Upcoming DuPont Planetarium Programs

April 6, 7, 20
7:00 pm
Blown Away: The Wild World of Weather
8:00 pm
Cruising through the Constellations

May 4, 5, 18, 19
8:00 pm and 9:00 pm
Mission to Mars

July 6, 7, 20, 21
8:00 pm
Larry Cat in Space
9:00 pm
Digistar “Laser” Fantasy

August 3, 4, 17, 18
8:00 pm
Explorers of Mauna Kea
9:00 pm
Digistar Virtual Journey

June 1, 2, 15, 16
8:00 pm
In My Backyard
9:00 pm
Digistar Virtual Journey

Ticket Prices
General Show Pricing: Adults $4.50, Seniors $3.50, 4K-12th Grade $2.50, USCA $1.00
Digistar Show Pricing: Adults $5.50, Seniors $4.50, 4K-12th Grade $3.50, USCA $1.00
Special Early Bird Pricing: (4pm and 5pm – April 7, May 5, June 2, July 7 and August 4)
Adults $3.50, Seniors $2.50, 4K-12th Grade $1.50, USCA $1.00

For Information please visit http://rpsec.usca.edu/planetarium

Fall Course

Using Computers to Support Instruction

Fall 2007

Credit: 3 hrs graduate credit
Course Number: AETE N631
Dates: TBD
Times: 5:00 - 7:40 PM
Course Fee: $25 Aiken County Teachers

(Course is being sponsored by Aiken County Public Schools)

To Register: Call Debbie Gregory at (803) 641-2428

Course Description:
Using Computers to Support Instruction: Teachers will learn the necessary techniques to make the computer an instructional tool in the classroom. The course is designed to be platform independent so that techniques learned can be applied to any computer system. Teachers will learn the basics of word processing, spreadsheets, and PowerPoint. Teachers will produce handout materials, tests, a computerized grade book, parent letters, an electronic lesson presentation, and a classroom newsletter.
The public is cordially invited to attend the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center's "Once in a Blue Moon" event on Thursday, May 31, 2007 from 8:00 – 11:00 PM.

The 20th Anniversary "Once in a Blue Moon" event will have a jazz and blues theme, featuring the music of Elliott and the Untouchables. Heavy hors d'oeuvres, champagne and dessert will be served. Guests can enjoy tours of the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center, moongazing from the rooftop observatory, and planetarium programs.

The phrase “Once in a Blue Moon” has come to mean “every now and then” or “rarely.” A blue moon is a second full moon in a calendar month. The moon’s phase cycle is about 29.53 days, while most months are 30 or 31 days long, so it is possible to fit two full moons in a single month. This happens every two and a half years, on average.

For reservations, please call (803) 641-3769. The cost is $50.00 per person and proceeds benefit the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center and the DuPont Planetarium.

Let's dance and celebrate by the light of the Blue Moon!

The Ruth Patrick Science Education Center Newsletter is a publication of the RPSEC for our patrons. The Center encompasses the CSRA Mathematics and Science Regional Center (MSRC), Center of Excellence in Educational Technology (CEET), DuPont Planetarium, RPSEC Student Programs, Traveling Science and Mathematics Demonstrations Program (TSMDP), and the Science and Technology Enrichment Program (STEP). If you have any information that would be beneficial to the audience of this newsletter, or if you would like to be added to the mailing list, please contact John Hutchens, Editor, at (803) 641-3474 or via email to johnh@usca.edu. Deadline for submission in the next newsletter is July 5, 2007.