



State Capitol, Austin, Texas

## Welcome to new and returning members! AATC Newsletter, February 2009

You may notice some changes in style and format and as your new editor, I look forward to hearing from you if you have any ideas or entries that you would like to place in upcoming newsletters. Please see my contact information on page 2.

The 2008 Annual Conference held in Austin, Texas was a celebration of ideas ranging from early childhood ecology to research on children’s mathematical thinking; from technology curriculum to teacher creativity and multicultural literature to NCLB.

Featured speaker, O.L. Davis, whose life’s work in curriculum and instruction, tireless commitment to AATC, even serving as the organization’s president

(1996) and admirable mentorship of students, gave us much to ponder. Dr. Davis, University of Texas at Austin was honored with a special dinner and recognition on the evening following the conference as well. Dr. Rene Clift, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign presented an engaging talk for our AATC luncheon. A special thank-you to our keynoters.

We hope that if you are hearing about AATC for the first time through this newsletter, as a graduate student, a university professor, instructor and/or educator that you consider submitting a proposal

and joining our growing organization of scholar-practitioners.

We encourage all members to visit the AATC website at [www.aatchome.org](http://www.aatchome.org) for valuable information on AATC membership, conference proposal applications, manuscript submission to our peer reviewed journal. Our AATC webmaster is Mark Geary, Dakota State University. He can be reached by e-mail: [mark.geary@dsu.edu](mailto:mark.geary@dsu.edu)



The White House, Washington, D.C.

## Looking ahead to the 2009 Conference:

### News from the Program Chair!

Hello! We are excited to announce that the call for proposals has gone out and we look forward to another wonderful year at the annual conference. Please consider joining us in

Washington, D.C. for our 16th year! What a great place to visit after all the “change” this year! We look forward to an even bigger and better conference with great speakers and lots of interesting and thought provoking presen-

tations. And the food is not so bad either! See you in D.C.! See page 3 for more details or contact our program chair directly:

Dr. Stacey Elsasser,  
Defiance College,  
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### Inside this issue:

A Word from Our AATC President	2
Curriculum and Instruction—Issues and Ideas	2
AATC Dissertation Award	2
2009 Conference Proposal Details	3
Call for Manuscripts— <i>AATC Dialogue</i>	3
AATC Officers 2008-2009	4
AATC Member Highlight	4

### AATC IS ON FACEBOOK.COM

**New and Continuing Members are invited to join the online dialogue, to post comments and to meet our membership. If you go to [facebook.com](http://facebook.com) and type in American Association of Teaching and Curriculum in the search box, it will take you to our place in Cyberspace. Look forward to meeting you there!**

## A Word from the AATC President

I watched Barak Obama address the crowd in Grant Park in Chicago, the nation and the world on election night as President-elect of the United States of America. This was a real “word from the president” and the word is *hope*.

I can't help feeling that Obama's word-which was celebrated from Chicago to Kenya, from the Middle East to the Hawaiian Islands, from South Africa to North Carolina-reaches to who we are as educators and to organizations like our own AATC. We don't know yet how the Obama administration will shape educational policy, but I hope for a new era of thoughtful public discourse.

As a University of Chicago alumnus, I



hope that Obama's University of Chicago ties will show through and encourage a more widespread belief that 'intellectual' is not a dirty word and that 'thinking through' a subject is not a waste of time. I hope that the central significance of education for the well-being of our society will be embraced in a way that more

fully acknowledges the expertise and insight of practitioners and scholars.

AATC was founded on these hopes, and I am looking forward to our 2009 conference at the Hilton Crystal City Hotel in Alexandria, Virginia maintaining the tradition of enriching and practice of scholarship. Craig Kridel, who is editor of the SAGE Encyclopedia of Curriculum Studies, to be published in 2010 will be the featured speaker. I hope you will start making plans to be there and to give voice to your hopes.

*Dr. Robert Boostrom is our current AATC President, University of Southern Indiana. He can be reached by e-mail at [rboostro@usi.edu](mailto:rboostro@usi.edu)*

## Issues and Ideas from the Newsletter Editor

Last semester, in the midst of the initial failure of the big banks and investment firms on Wall Street and as Congress debated the merits of a gigantic economic 'bailout', I remember writing on the whiteboard in my Introduction to Education course, "*When do the K-12 children of America get an economic bailout?*" This was a question my students and I discussed within the larger context of

how and in what ways we finance the education of our students in the American public school system. This we might agree is a complex issue and often contentious debate when we discover that adequacy is in some cases, very inadequate, and not to anyone's surprise: inequitable. The media coverage over the more recent economic stimulus bill, and the actuality that specific PK-20 funding

for education became a vibrant part of the national discourse was heartening. The \$48 Billion allocated for Education is not going to fix all of what challenges us; however, it will assist us in enlivening the dialogue.

*Dr. Pamela B. Thompson is our current newsletter editor, University of Hawaii at Hilo. She can be reached by e-mail at [pamelabt@hawaii.edu](mailto:pamelabt@hawaii.edu)*

## An Invitation and Opportunity for AATC Dissertation Award

AATC requests nominations for its annual dissertation awards recognizing two distinguished doctoral dissertations-one in Teaching and one in Curriculum. Nominations are open to non members, but all applicants must be nominated by an AATC member. Entries are not limited to any particular kind of research. The nominee's dissertation must have been defended by 2006 fall semester. Each entry **must include**:

1. A letter of nomination attesting to the quality of the of the dissertation. The letter should include how the work is related to

teaching and/or curriculum; how it represents a significant contribution; and that the conclusions relate to improving professional practice or the advancement of a theoretical understanding.

2. Submit 3 hard or electronic copies of the dissertation summary (2,000-2,500 words). Include one page of references and no reference to the author in the summary or references.

3. A letter of intent from the author stating they wish to apply for the award. Letter

should include current mailing address, e-mail and phone number.

4. Entries should be postmarked or sent electronically no later than April 1, 2009

Send materials to Dr. David M. Callejo Perez, Chair, AATC Dissertation Award Selection-West Virginia University-Curriculum & Instruction/Literacy Studies-P.O. Box 6122-Allen Hall 604H -Morgantown, WV 26506-6122

Any questions or electronic entries: [david.callejo@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:david.callejo@mail.wvu.edu)

## 2009 Annual Call for Conference Proposals

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The Sixteenth Annual AATC Conference will be held **October 1-3, 2009** at the **Hilton Crystal City at Washington Reagan Airport, Arlington, Virginia.**

We are inviting proposals for scholarly/professional papers and programs to be presented in one of four identified formats.

- **A paper presentation** is a formal paper reporting on-going or completed research and invites reactions. Copies of the paper should be distributed and should not have been previously presented. Paper presentations are allotted 15-20 minutes for the presentation plus an additional 5-10 minutes for audience reaction.

- **An ideas and issues session** is a presentation of questions for inquiry and/or concepts or theories to engage the audience in discussion. Ideas and Issues sessions are allotted at least 30 minutes, but more as the program schedule permits.
- **A panel/symposium** involves several speakers discussing varied points of view on a specified issue of interest to the AATC membership. Panels/Symposia are allotted 60 minutes for presentations and audience participation.
- **A poster session** incorporates a graphic representation and an oral presentation of a current educational issue. Graduate students will present

their poster in roundtable format. Participants will move from poster to poster for a short presentation by the presenter, with chance to ask questions.

- Proposals must be received no later than **March 20, 2009.**
- **Proposals must be prepared according to the outline specified on the proposal application found on our website: [www.aatchome.org](http://www.aatchome.org)**
- **Proposals that do not follow this format will not be reviewed.**
- Proposals will be subject to blind review. Please do not identify author name, institution or school districts in the body of the proposal.

## Proposal Application Details and Program Chair Contact

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- Proposals should be submitted as MS Word documents or as Rich Text format if MS Word is not available.
- If your proposal is selected for the 2009 AATC Conference, you must pre-register for the conference. If your registration is not received by September 4, 2009, your name will be removed from the program
- Presenters should bring 15 copies of any materials for sharing at the conference.
- In order to keep conference costs to a minimal amount, no AV equipment will be available; however, presenters are welcome to bring their own.
- Please see our website for further details: [www.aatchome.org](http://www.aatchome.org)
- Please send all proposals electronically to : [selsasser@defiance.edu](mailto:selsasser@defiance.edu)

Dr. Stacey Elsasser  
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Defiance, OH 43512  
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## Opportunity for Publication: *Curriculum and Teaching Dialogue*

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*Curriculum and Teaching Dialogue* is the journal for AATC and an excellent opportunity to publish.

All manuscripts are peer reviewed and accepted work is published annually.

- **Selected Conference Papers** have been presented at the annual conference. Not to exceed 20 pages, 5000 words, including references; postmarked by October 31 of the conference year.
- **Open submission papers** must be on topics related to teaching and/or curriculum; not to exceed 20 pages, 5000 words and may be submitted at any time.
- **Book reviews** related to teaching or curriculum fields are welcome; not to exceed 4 pages or 1000 words and may be submitted any time.
- **Letters to the Editor** and anyone who wishes to respond to previously published CTD manuscripts in a **Dialogue Column** are also welcome; selected at the discretion of the editor.

For manuscript submission guidelines, go to [www.aatchome.org](http://www.aatchome.org) and click on journal information. You can also contact Dr. Barbara Stern, James Madison University, Editor,

E-mail: [ctdjournal@jmu.edu](mailto:ctdjournal@jmu.edu)



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(Photos Courtesy of [www.photoshare.com](http://www.photoshare.com))

*The American Association for Teaching and Curriculum (AATC) was founded on October 1, 1993. The members of the AATC believed that the time was long overdue to recognize teaching and curriculum as a basic field of scholarly study, to constitute a national learned society for scholarly field of teaching and curriculum through its conferences, journal, and the interaction of its members. The purpose of the organization as originally defined in the AATC Constitution (Article 1, Section 2): To promote the scholarly study of teaching and curriculum, all analytical and interpretive approaches that are appropriate for the scholarly study of teaching and curriculum shall*

## **AATC Member Highlight**

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### **JEANNE TUNKS**

**Associate Professor, University of North Texas**

**Favorite sentiment:** "You only go around once, so go for the gusto and make the most of the limited time you have."

**Currently Teaches:** Methods of Teaching Mathematics and Methods of Social Studies

**Continuing Project:** "The Professional Development School, I coordinate for the university and the Denton ISD, created and conducts a project with our 13 partnership schools called Fiesta Night. During these nights, UNT PDS students create and coordinate math games that are grade appropriate and culturally relevant to the Hispanic culture. For the past two years there have been 12 Fiesta Nights engaging 2000+ parents, children and teachers. Several research studies by undergraduate and graduate students

have been generated from this project. Some of the most significant learning has been among non Hispanic students who have increased their knowledge, acceptance and perception of Hispanic students and their parents."

**Interests:** "I am interested in outdoor adventures! For the past 11 years, my husband Tom and I have sailed with the Sea Scouts, a group of teenage boys and girls and taught them the ropes of sailing. We often take our own sailboat to the many lakes in the Dallas, Texas area and also have done some international sailing, enjoying a ten day bare boat sailing trip in the Mediterranean Sea, from Athens around the Cyclades Islands. We sailed with dolphins, sea turtles, and rode along ten foot seas back to the dock. When the wind slows down a bit, we can be found in our canoe or kayak, lightly paddling down a quiet creek or rushing over rapids."

*This will be a regular feature in the AATC Newsletter. Be looking for other AATC member highlights in future newsletters. It may be you!*