

*West Virginia Science Teachers Association*

# LAB REPORT - May 2018

Volume 21 Number 2



## Science Teaching in Superposition 2018 WVSTA Annual Conference



### October 25-27 - Stonewall Jackson Resort

Stonewall Resort is the first state park in the nation to be developed, constructed, financed and operated by a private developer in partnership with the state. Located in Roanoke, WV, Stonewall Jackson Resort is the site our 2018 Conference.

Conference Registration is open now so you can begin planning for the best professional development program for science teachers in West Virginia.

- Conference registration - <https://wvsta.org/wvsta-fall-conference-2018/>
- Hotel reservations - Call 888.278.8150 for room reservations

# CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

## **Keynote Speaker Dr. Susan A. Crate**

Dr. Crate is an interdisciplinary scholar specializing in environmental and cognitive anthropology. She has worked with indigenous communities in Siberia since 1988 investigating change, with a focus in the last fifteen years on how communities are perceiving, understanding and adapting to climate change. She is a full Professor of Anthropology in the Department of Environmental Science and Policy at George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia.



## **Opening Speaker: Carrie Bell, Marine Investigator, Office of Marine Safety, National Transportation Safety Board**

Ms. Bell obtained her Psychology degree from West Virginia University and went on to pursue a Master of Science in Psychology and Human Factors from University of Idaho. Her career in Human Factors has been widely focused in the Department of Defense domain, Research and Engineering, and Human Systems Integration in military systems.

Ms. Bell joined the National Transportation Safety Board's Office of Marine Safety (OMS) in October 2014. As an advocate for safety, she strives to bring awareness to the maritime industry in areas such as training, fatigue awareness, workload and environmental pressures.

She has participated in numerous major marine casualty investigations, including 2017 investigation of the El Faro sinking and crews deaths during Hurricane Joaquin.

# Conference Scholarships

**Pat Obenauf Scholarship** honors the first president and executive director of the West Virginia Science Teachers Association. Teachers and pre-service teachers are encouraged to apply for the Dr. Pat Obenauf Scholarship. Dr. Obenauf was a leading supporter of science education for a long time. WVSTA would not be here without her guidance over decades. To share her love for science education with others, this scholarship will pay the registration for one teacher and one pre-service teacher. To apply for this scholarship, answer the following:

- why you want to attend the conference
- how you think it will help in your classroom
- how you will share your knowledge gained at the conference with others.

Send this via email to Linda Fonner (lfonner@suddenlink.net).

**NASA West Virginia Space Grant Consortium Scholarships** Current forensics teachers and preservice teachers in the middle and high school grades are encouraged to apply for scholarships to participate in forensics professional development at the WVSTA annual conference. Participants will receive one night's lodging (Friday night) and conference registration for their participation. Actual workshops will be tailored based on feedback from the applicants but could possibly include: Blood presence/blood typing, splatter analysis, latent fingerprinting analysis, and other associated topics.



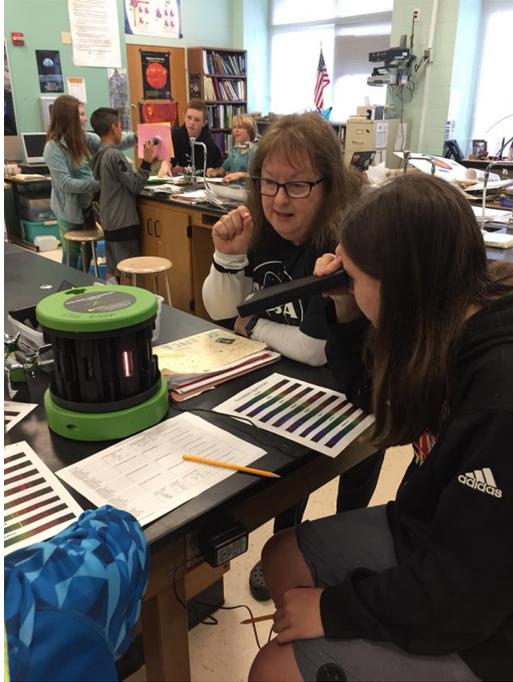
You can apply by visiting the application link <https://goo.gl/forms/MfMOt9xYlScFs2sx2>. Recipients of the scholarship will be required to attend forensics sessions, keep a conference journal, and provide session feedback. For more information about the program contact Mark Flood, PhD at [Mark.Flood@fairmontstate.edu](mailto:Mark.Flood@fairmontstate.edu).

*“This research was made possible by NASA West Virginia Space Grant Consortium, Training Grant # NNX15AI01H.”*

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**Looking Ahead** Do you live or work near Charleston, site of the 2019 WVSTA conference? Robin Sizemore is the conference chair and is looking for volunteers to serve on the conference planning committee. Please contact Robin at [robin.sizemore@k12.wv.us](mailto:robin.sizemore@k12.wv.us)

# PAM CASTO - Teacher, Friend



Pam Casto passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on April 24. Pam was a teacher, an amateur archaeologist, a robotics connoisseur, a lover of Lego, and a ruthless Scrabble player. She was equally brilliant, curious, and caring. Her curiosity and interests stretched from the dirt underfoot to the stars overhead, but it was of course all of the family, friends, and students in between that got the best of her love.

Pam began her career supervising first a Microbiology Lab then a Biochemistry Lab in hospitals. She raised three children and earned a Master's degree in Education. For 25 years she taught Biology, Chemistry, and Physics before beginning work as an outreach specialist for Fairmont State University at the NASA IV&V Educator Resource Center. She directly impacted thousands of students and teachers in West Virginia. In 2002 she began to pursue an interest in archaeology working with the University of Wales and York Archaeology Trust in the U.K.

on Roman and Medieval sites and for various firms in the Eastern U.S. – primarily on prehistoric Native American sites. She served on the Morgantown History Museum Commission and was an avid traveler who enjoyed travelling with friends.

Gifts in memory of Pam can be made to the Fairmont State Foundation and will be used for the Robotics Alliance Fund to directly support the West Virginia youth science programs of which she was so proud. Fairmont State Foundation, 1300 Locust Avenue, Fairmont, WV 26554

*In the winter of 2010 I was teaching science at Paw Paw Schools. I traveled with my students to the ERC for a Lego Robotics workshop, one of the many amazing workshops that my students would attend. Little did I know that this would be the start of something amazing. Pam Casto would go on to be an educator, a teacher and a dear friend. She inspired me and my students and shared a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm for the love of science each and every time I saw her. Even after I left WV, Pam and I remained close friends. Pam traveled to North Carolina to participate in local archeological digs; she was a key participant in the local Croatoan Archaeological Society, Inc digs here on Hatteras Island. Each spring (for the past three years, and most recently just a few weeks ago), she would work on the dig and spend time each visiting my new classroom sharing her love of science. My students looked forward to her visits, as did I. She was among friends here and well respected, she will be missed by many. ~ Carol Coryea*



# WVSTA Leadership

Are you ready to serve on the WVSTA leadership team? Know somebody? Nominate yourself or another WV teacher for a position on the Executive Board. Open positions for 2018-2020 include Recording Secretary and President- Elect. Please send nominations to Erika Klose - [eklose@k12.wv.us](mailto:eklose@k12.wv.us).

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## RESOURCES FOR TEACHING

Carbon TIME is a program that includes teaching units, designed for middle and high school science classes, that focus on processes that transform matter and energy in organisms, ecosystems, and global systems: combustion, photosynthesis, cellular respiration, digestion, and biosynthesis. Students use these cellular and chemical processes to explain the functioning of organisms – plants, animals, decomposers - as well as ecological and global carbon cycling.



<http://carbontime.bsccs.org/>

## LEMELSON-MIT

*Celebrating invention, inspiring youth*

The Lemelson-MIT Program celebrates outstanding inventors and inspires young people to pursue creative lives and careers through invention. JV InvenTeams Activity Guides and Invention Kits are available for everyone. Activity guides for educators and students are available free for download from the website and include: Chill Out, Growing, Green, Pump It Up, U Control, Noise Makers, Super Lens, Shoe Soles, and Electronic Textiles. <http://lemelson.mit.edu/search-resources/42>



WV Eco-sysSTEM wants you to submit your favorite stem resources, camps, and events to their searchable database. Learn more - <http://wvecosystem.org>