

## News from the SwIstem Resource Center

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## Ohio Valley STEM Educators Conference

The 2010 Ohio Valley STEM Educators Conference at the University of Southern Indiana will bring together PreK -16 educators in the tri-state region to share new and innovative pedagogical strategies, discover hands-on, and inquiry-based activities, and network with other STEM educators.

Concurrent sessions will be held throughout the day pertaining to the following strands:

- Embracing Technology in the Classroom
- Sharing Best Practices
- Data-Driven Learning: Meeting State Standards
- Utilizing Resources for Hands-on Learning
- Bridging STEM Disciplines.

Click [here](#) for an agenda and more conference information.

**November 6, 2010**

Time: 8:00am-3:00pm

Science and Education Center

University of Southern Indiana

### Registration Information

- Pre-registration (with reduced registration fees) is open through November 3, 2010.
- On-site registration will be available.

#### For more information:

Kara Becker

812/228-5008

[kgbecker@usi.edu](mailto:kgbecker@usi.edu)

## New Robotics Competition for Middle School and High School Students Coming to USI

The USI Department of Engineering, the Southwest Indiana STEM Resource Center at the University of Southern Indiana, the Naval Surface Warfare Center—Crane Division, and the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers are pleased to announce sponsorship of the first SeaPerch Southwest Indiana competition. SeaPerch robotic kits will be made available for those high school and middle school teams interested in competing. Information about the event will be sent to STEM teachers and will be available on the SwIstem website ([www.swistem.org](http://www.swistem.org)) in coming weeks .

SeaPerch is a program that allows students to learn about a variety of subjects as they design and build their own remotely operated vehicle (ROV). Water sampling, habitat observation, buoyancy, electrical wiring, and the evolution of oceanic exploration are some of the domains researched as students dive into this underwater robotic expedition. To compete, students must apply what they have learned by navigating their ROVs through a series of aquatic obstacles and demonstrations.

For additional SeaPerch competition resources, please visit [www.seaperch.org](http://www.seaperch.org).



**February 5, 2011**

Time: 7:30am-12:30pm

Physical Activities Center (PAC)

University of Southern Indiana

#### For more information:

Kara Becker

812/228-5008

[kgbecker@usi.edu](mailto:kgbecker@usi.edu)

# USI Chemistry Celebrates Mole Day and National Chemistry Week

Each year National Chemistry Week reaches millions of people with positive messages about the contributions of chemistry to society. The USI Department of Chemistry and the Indiana-Kentucky Border Section of the American Chemical Society will be hosting several events this month in celebration of Mole Day (October 23, 2010) and National Chemistry Week.



## National Chemistry Week Activities

### Mole Day Chemistry Bowl

**Date: October 21, 2010**

Time: 8:00am-3:00pm

Location: Science and Education Center, USI

Teacher Registration Deadline: October 19, 2010

Open to teams of three students from Chemistry II/Advanced Placement classes.

**For more information:**

Jeff Seyler

812/465-1923

[jseyler@usi.edu](mailto:jseyler@usi.edu)

### Chemistry Day at the Museum

Bryan Lynch will conduct exciting experiments and demonstrations. Hands-on activities will follow the demonstration.

**Date: October 24, 2010**

Time: 12:00pm-3:00pm

Location: The Evansville Museum

No registration required.

Open to museum visitors of all ages.

**For more information:**

Mitch Luman

812/425-2406

### 4th Grade Hands-On Chemistry Activities

Chemists and college chemistry students lead chemistry experiments in area classrooms.

**Date: October 18-23, 2010**

Time: 8:00am-2:00pm

Location: Area 4th Grade Classrooms

Contact Jeff Seyler to schedule a visit.

**For more information:**

Jeff Seyler

812/465-1923

[jseyler@usi.edu](mailto:jseyler@usi.edu)

## Tri-State Science and Engineering Fair

It's time to start planning for the Tri-State Science and Engineering Fair at USI! The [USI Science Fair Website](#) is full of ideas and suggestions for helping your students design their projects. Take a moment to review upcoming Tri-State Science and Engineering Fair deadlines.



**For more information:**

Kara Becker

812/228-5008

[kgbecker@usi.edu](mailto:kgbecker@usi.edu)

### March 10-11, 2011

Recreation, Fitness, & Wellness Center  
University of Southern Indiana

### Upcoming Dates to Remember:

**February 3, 2011**—Senior Division on-line registration is due.

**February 10, 2011**—All Senior Division paper work is due.

**February 17, 2011**—Junior Division on-line registration is due.

**February 24, 2011**—All Junior Division paper work is due.

**October 28, 2010**

Time: 8:30pm-5:30pm  
Technology Innovation Center  
951 Walnut Street  
Evansville, Indiana



## SWICTM Fall Mathematics Conference

Model drawing, a Singapore Math strategy for working word problems, will be the focus for elementary and middle school problem solving sessions. Paul Awtrey, a Promethean representative, will present a session on Interactive White Boards for high school teachers. There is a limited number of seats. Click [here](#) to register for this conference.

### For more information:

Andrea Kneubuhler  
[andrea.kneubuhler@evsc.k12.in.us](mailto:andrea.kneubuhler@evsc.k12.in.us)

## Who is Using SwISTEM?



Mrs. Cathy Dyson's fourth grade students at St. Wendel School get a charge out of a Van der Graaf generator provided by the SwISTEM Equipment Lending Service. This activity proved to be an exciting supplement to their hands-on experiences with the FOSS Electricity and Magnetism kits. For information about the SwISTEM Equipment Lending Service and a complete listing of available equipment, visit [www.swistem.org](http://www.swistem.org).

## Letter from the SwISTEM Director

Dear STEM Educators:

SwISTEM is on the go working with teachers and students throughout Southwest Indiana. The SwISTEM staff is thrilled to see so many teachers excited about STEM education.

Are you interested in using SwISTEM equipment in your classroom, but not sure where to begin? Please [contact us!](#) We offer age and content-appropriate activities that incorporate SwISTEM equipment and math manipulatives into current PreK-12 STEM programs. Whether extending assistance in the classroom during instructional time or providing teachers with one-on-one support, SwISTEM's primary goal is to promote regional STEM education by advocating hands-on, inquiry-based instruction.

Please let us know how we can best assist you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kara G. Becker'.

Kara G. Becker  
Director, SwISTEM Resource Center

### **Attention SwISTEM Patrons:**

*In order to showcase equipment from the Southwest Indiana Resource Center during the Ohio Valley STEM Educators Conference, the SwISTEM Equipment Lending Service will be unavailable from November 2-6th. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.*