**MABT ALERT – INFORMATION as it HAPPENS**
communication from the Massachusetts Association of Biology Teachers, Inc.

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## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### 1) MABT Conference, Saturday March 26th, 2022

We are excited to be hosting Paul Anderson from Bozeman Science to lead this year's conference on *data literacy.*

Here are a few topics we will address:

- Design instruction to empower guided & open inquiry
- Encourage and learn from "failure"
- Represent and interpret "messy" data

We are planning for an in-person conference at Acton-Boxborough Regional High School. Safety is a priority and we value your input. In addition, we are looking for workshop presenters. Please complete this short **survey** to help us prepare our conference.

### 2) Outstanding Biology Teacher Award (OBTA)

Each year, the National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT), through its Outstanding Biology Teacher Award (OBTA), attempts to identify an excellent biology instructor in each of the 50 U.S. states; Canada; Washington, D.C.; Puerto Rico, and overseas territories. Nominations of worthy candidates by NABT members and friends help us to recognize those individuals whose outstanding work in the classroom qualifies them for this award.

Recipients receive a year's complimentary membership in

**Graduate Program**

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

**1) Teen Programming Council Applications** - due Sept. 26th

MABT AWARDS

Don Bockler Award
- Description
- Application

Paul King Award
- Description
- Application

GREAT BIO-WEBSITE

**Bugs in Our Backyard**

NABT and are invited to attend an Honors Luncheon held at the National Association of Biology Teachers Conference. At this honoree award ceremony, sponsored by Carolina Biological Supply Company, OBTA winners receive gift certificates to Carolina Biological, resources from other sponsors, and award certificates.

Who is Eligible? … Current biology/life science instructors (grades 7-12) with at least three years public, private, or parochial school teaching experience. A major portion of the nominee's career must have been devoted to the teaching of biology/life science. NABT membership is not a requirement. Unsuccessful candidates may be re-nominated. OBTA winners are ineligible for 10 years after selection.

What is the Process? … After nomination forms have been submitted, Candidates will complete an Application form summarizing their professional experience, academic background, and education philosophy and provide four recommendations from colleagues familiar with their teaching effectiveness. Classroom observations and/or videotapes are important steps in the evaluation process.

Who Can Make Nominations? … Colleagues, administrators, students, the teacher/candidates themselves, or anyone competent to judge the candidate's teaching effectiveness.

What Are the Criteria? … Teaching Ability and experience, cooperativeness in the school and community, inventiveness, initiative and student-teacher relationships.

How Do I participate? … Fill out the nomination form linked here or request one from your state OBTA Director, Don Pinkerton at dpinkerton1019@gmail.com, or the NABT OBTA coordinator, Jaclyn Reeves-Pepin, at jreevespepin@nabt.org. The general deadline for nominations is February 1, 2022. The Application Form and recommendations are due on March 1, 2022. Check with your state OBTA Director or call NABT at (703) 2649696/ (888) 501-NABT for information.

See the nomination form & Characteristics of Exemplary Life Science Teaching

READ ABOUT THE 2021 OBTA WINNER, DEBORAH O'REILLY OF ESSEX TECH

→ For a pdf of this information, click here

**3) Broad Classroom Discovery Guides**

Check out these wonderful guides developed in partnership with the Broad Institute. Through these NGSS-aligned curriculum guides for high school biology classrooms, students will learn about how the key fields of biomedicine — like genetics, cancer, and infectious disease — have evolved since the human genome was first sequenced.
If educators have any questions they can email discoveryguides@broadinstitute.org

All eight guides can be accessed here:
broad.io/classroomdiscoveryguides

**4) Zoom with Professor Zook**

Renowned science educator and UMass, Boston Professor Doug Zook has presented worldwide on global ecology and symbiosis. You can zoom with Dr. Zook for free on these current topics:

- SYMBIOSIS as a driving force in the biosphere and in evolution.
- JOURNEY TO YASUNI -- why the Amazon, its indigenous peoples and its biodiversity is so important...
- GLOBAL ECOLOGY – revealing the profound connections over vast distances in the biosphere and discovering who is the leadership around the world in practicing essential earth-centered ethics.

→ For more information, see the attached flyer.

**5) MassBioEd Workshops**

Registration is open for fall 2021 teacher workshops! Check out the events page on our website here to see what we have planned and keep checking as we continue to add more.
This year, you will notice options for both remote and in-person workshops being offered at LabCentral in Cambridge, MA. We will monitor Covid cases and CDC recommendations and keep registrants updated on any changes that need to happen as each workshop gets closer.

Our first opportunity is a series of three workshops offered remotely on Zoom, at the end of October. These include: Exploring Photosynthesis (10/25), Exploring Cellular Respiration (10/27) and Exploring Enzymes (10/28). Each workshop is from 3:30 – 5:00pm. Join for one or all three! Additionally, we will be offering the opportunity to earn three graduate credits in biology this Spring. You can learn more about earning graduate credits and view the syllabus for the coursework on our website here.

→ See flyer and registration information

**6) Miami University's Project Dragonfly Graduate Program**

Miami University's Project Dragonfly is accepting applications for 2022 Earth Expeditions graduate courses that offer extraordinary experiences in 15 countries throughout the world. http://EarthExpeditions.MiamiOH.edu

Earth Expeditions can build toward the Global Field Program (GFP), a master's degree that combines summer field courses worldwide with web learning communities so that students can complete the GFP master's part-time from anywhere in the United States or abroad. http://GFP.MiamiOH.edu

Project Dragonfly also offers the Advanced Inquiry Program (AIP) master's degree that combines web instruction from Miami University with experiential learning and field study through several AIP Master Institutions in the U.S. Applications for Miami's 2022 cohorts are being accepted now with place-based experiences provided at zoos and botanical gardens in Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Denver, Jacksonville, New York, San Diego, Seattle, and St. Louis. http://AIP.MiamiOH.edu

Graduate tuition for all programs is greatly reduced because of support from Miami University.

COVID-19 Info and Curricular Innovation

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

1) **Teen Programming Council Applications**

The MIT Museum is looking for creative, dedicated, and inspired teens to join our Teen Programming Council at the MIT Museum in Cambridge, MA. This program creates opportunities for local high school students to connect with MIT researchers while building leadership, collaboration, and organizational skills through the planning of Teen Science Café events for their peers. To learn more about this program and apply, visit this form.

**If you have information regarding opportunities for biology instruction or programs for students in the life sciences, please contact Brian Dempsey MABT Alert Editor**