

Summer, 2008

Contact GAEA

GAEEmail@gmail.com
PO Box 1023
Franklin, GA 30217
www.gaea.org



Save the Date!

Mark your calendar for March 22-24, 2009 for the annual GAEA conference and business meeting. The planning committee is hard at work selecting a venue, speakers and of course outstanding food! If you've heard an outstanding presentation that you think would benefit your colleagues, please contact Karen LaMarsh at klamarsh@kennesaw.edu

Annual Conference a Success!

The 2008 GAEA Conference held at Hiawassee was an unprecedented success thanks to outstanding planning and an unsurpassed venue.

"Georgia has an amazing choice of locations for any conference, but this year we chose a mountain retreat. It was relaxing, conducive for professional networking, and the perfect backdrop for a spring meeting" said GAEA President Melanie Baer.

Keynote speakers included Judy Renfroe from Georgia Economic Development who encouraged non-credit training in the area of travel and tourism, Georgia's second largest industry. Jon Horn and Nicole Foerschler from JMH Consulting updated web analytics skills and web page best practices.

Breakout session topics fea-

tured discussions on contract training, new gizmos and gadgets, marketing, and web page analytics.

"We tried to have a little something for everyone" said Jane O'Gorman, planning chair for the 2008 event.

The conference is also host to the annual business meeting where newly elected officers were installed. Serving a two-year reign as president is Melanie Baer from the Georgia Center for Continuing Education. She, as well as the other officers, will serve in their positions until the 2010 conference.

From Moultrie Technical College, Tonya Cooper is the new president-elect. Jan Reynolds will welcome new members as the VP for membership. Janet Winkler will serve as the VP of Operations and David



MELANIE BAER
GAEA PRESIDENT

Sargent will continue in the position of Treasurer.

Chairing the 2009 conference planning committee is Karen LaMarsh from Kennesaw State University. Directors include Ruth Bettendorff, Jane O'Gorman, and Cherry Denny.

All GAEA members would like to say a huge "Thank You!" to outgoing president Artis Williamson for outstanding leadership over the past two years.

Hot Sheet

Overheard at recent professional meetings

Gadget

Google Phone

The G Phone is coming! What it will look like and when it will arrive is anybody's guess. But, the rumble is, it will change the way we access the Internet

Buzz Word

Community of Practice

A process of social learning

Quick Read

From NCCET

Educating the 21st Century Citizen

Website

LinkedIn

Are you registered?

New Course Idea

Accent Reduction Training

Hosted Programs Increasing in Popularity

With staff cuts and demanding workloads, Georgia's continuing educators are turning to hosted programs, particularly during the busy summer months. Two programs gaining in popularity are the Missoula Children's Theatre and AllAboutLearning/Michigan Learn-

ing, who offer popular Lego programs.

"Summer camps are very time consuming" said Beth Nielsen-Smith of Darton College. "I was skeptical when contacted by Michigan Learning last year, but I requested references, checked them out

and decided to give it a go. Last year we offered two camps, and this year we doubled our offerings."

This was the first year North Georgia Technical College held any summer camps. They

(Continued on page 2)

On the move . . .

Pete Snell formerly at Statesboro Technical College is the new Vice President, Economic Development at West Central Technical College.

Beulah Lindsey retired June 30th from Atlanta Technical College.

Welcome new GAEA Members!

Paul Helton, North Metro Tech

Shenita Ferguson, Worforce Coordinator, St. Mary's Community Ctr

Priscilla Johnson, Customer Service Associate, AT&T

Henry (Hank) Hobbs, Altamaha Tech

Dr. Linda Edington, campus director, Athens Technical College

Grant Writing Workshop

Senators Johnny Isakson and Saxby Chambliss will sponsor a grant writing workshop on September 22, 2008 at Georgia State University in Atlanta. Representatives from over 30 federal agencies will attend. Registration deadline is September 15. More information on this event is available on the web at http://www.isakson.senate.gov/grants_workshop.html



Students worked in teams of two as the classroom atmosphere often changed from diligent working students to energetic kids racing and battling their machines North Georgia College & State University.

Hosted Prgs (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

opted to offer the Lego camps in a full day format. Half the day was devoted to recreational activities, and half the day was reserved for Lego activities.

Both organizations kept to the suggested age groups of 5 to 7 years and 8 to 11 years for the more advanced courses.

Darton insisted on input when selecting their instructors and was pleased with their results.

Sandra Maughon from North Georgia learned that lesson the hard way: "The first teacher All About Learning got was actually from a professional temporary agency. They trained her on the phone for 30 minutes. She did OK. The second camp was done by one of their professionals who flew in for the week. He was much better."

Bottom line, get involved with instructor

selection.

Students nearly forgot that they were learning math and science as they worked with LEGO blocks at two new summer camps hosted by North Georgia College & State University Continuing Education department. Participants in the LEGO Engineering camp were given blocks, gears, levers, wheels, axles, structures, forces and simple machines as a basis for construction, and then the kids' creativity took over when constructing their own car. In the LEGO Battle Bot camp, participants designed and constructed their battle machine and competed against other groups. Then they were given the opportunity to think of modifications to make their machine the winner.

Hosted programs *aren't* just about fun – they also strive to build math or sciences skills as well as team building and character development. Missoula Children's Theatre claims their programs offer "The development of life skills in children through participation in the performing arts.

Course evaluations show an extremely high level of satisfaction with the majority indi-

cating that they would return if the camps was offered again. To keep costs low most organizations opt to rent or borrow equipment for the camp. Campers indicated that they were slightly disappointed that they were not allowed to keep their kits or finished products. However, this would have significantly added to the cost of the camp.

Says Maughon, "Last week I looked at the Lego Educator page and found the exact same kits (including Lego pieces and booklets and instructor materials). At first I suffered sticker shock, and then I ran the numbers and realized that I would have come out ahead (far ahead) had I gone this route. HOWEVER, not having any experience at all with day camps or Legos or the material, it probably would have been disastrous."

All things considered, all three organizations would repeat the experience, especially for a new program or offering.

Says Maughon, "Hosted programs are expensive, but sometimes the quality warrants it."