Important Dates:

- 11/13 Movie Night – Come to SH 4 and watch a movie with FFEA (Free snacks and a lot of laughs)
- 11/14-20 American Education Week
- 11/16 Mix it up at Lunch Day – Help change social boundaries at FIT!
- 11/24-26 Thanksgiving Break – Everyone go home and spend time with the family!

Attention Students:

The next FTCE Dates are:

- January 22 - Reg. by 12/3
- Late Reg. by 12/23

All students should consider taking the FTCE General Knowledge Exam as soon as possible. Passing scores are required before registration of the Junior Sequence of Education Courses (EDS 3033, 4051 & 3095)

Seniors must have their passing scores for the Professional Education and Subject Area Exams filed before graduation.

How to Teach the Nature of Science?

Information obtained from: The Science Teacher
November 2004, Vol. 71, No.9

Over the past century there has been a call to add the nature of science into the school curriculum and there have been several reforms passed to have more of the nature of science taught, but in recent studies it was found that some students and teachers still fail to understand even the most basic elements of this part of science. There are several things to consider when teaching the nature of science.

One consideration is that science demands and relies on empirical evidence. Everything that is found or proved in science must have evidence to back up the findings of the study or experiment. One caution with this idea is that not all evidence is gained through experimental means.

There are a lot of commonalities in science, but there is no single step-by-step scientific method by which all science is done. In many text books the scientific method is given in set steps that must be followed from start to finish in a certain order. Truthfully, there is no universal set of steps to use. Teachers have to be sure the students understand that the steps are not set in stone and it is a good thing to think on their feet.

Due to the problem of induction, an absolute “proof” in science is impossible, but this does not mean the knowledge is not valuable or not worth learning. The gathering of data related to a problem and the trends the data creates lead to the development of a proof or law of science. The point is, there is no way anyone can collect all the relevant data to the problem that is being studied. Also all the information in science is to the best of our knowledge, this needs to be instilled in students - especially the thought process that science is always changing and change is not a bad thing.

Laws and theories are related but are distinct kinds of scientific knowledge. One of the largest misconceptions about science is that laws are mature theories and that this makes laws more valuable or believable than theories. Laws are generalizations or patterns in nature, while theories are explanations for why such laws hold true.

Science is a highly creative endeavor. Most students see and describe science as a dry set of facts and conclusions rather than the exciting process it really is. When teaching science we tend to forget to go into the true and creative side of the nature of science so that we can get all the facts across to the students.

Sometimes, as educators we forget that part of our jobs is also to get the students excited about what we have to teach them. Science doesn’t have to be a dry boring subject if it is brought to the students in a fun and creative way that demonstrates what science really is.
Get To Know --- Christina DeCarmo

Christina was born in Yonkers, New York. Yonkers, for those of you who don’t know, is in the northern part New York state close to the Hudson River? Christina has always wanted to be either a teacher or a meteorologist since she was very young. She would make her sisters work on problems and she would then teach them how to solve them.

While attending St. Cloud High School, Christina was very involved in sports and organizations. She participated in many sports, including track and tennis. She even found time to manage the boys soccer team. Christina was also the treasurer of her school’s Biology Club, member of Keyettes, and National Junior Honors Society. At Florida Tech she has become an active member of FEA.

Christina first came to Florida Tech to be a meteorologist. She later found out about the Science/Mathematics Education Department and changed majors to Earth/Space Science Education. She is only one course shy of becoming a certified meteorologist. Having Christina around to explain this season’s hurricane phenomenon was great!

Christina looks forward to teaching because she “can’t wait to start educating the children.” Looking farther down the road of her career, she hopes to teach at the college level, with her main interests being the earth sciences - especially atmospheric sciences.

Computer Lab Hours

Monday - Thursday
8am – 9pm

Friday
8am – 5pm

Saturday
Closed

Sunday
4pm – 7pm

Inspiring Quotes:

- The important thing is not so much that every child should be taught, as that every child should be given the wish to learn.
  - John Lubbock

- We cannot hold a torch to light another’s path without brightening our own.
  - Ben Sweetland

- Teaching is not a lost art, but the regard for it is a lost tradition
  - Jacques Barzun

- If kittens grow up to be cats, then mittens must grow up to be mats.
  - Ryan Burton

FEA Pumpkin Carving Winners!

The News Stand:
What’s in This Month

- The Science Teacher
Quizzing Students on the Myths of Science

- Science Scope
Astrobiology

- Mathematics Teacher
Fractal Patterns and Chaos Games

- Focus Review
How Do We Know What Students Know?