



Middle Atlantic Section Newsletter

Fall 2022 Edition

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In this edition:

[From the Chair](#)

[Teaching Tip](#)

[Call for Nominations –
Distinguished Teaching Award](#)

[Future Section Conferences](#)

[Local Announcements](#)

[2022 Spring Conference Recap](#)

2022 Fall Conference at Penn State Harrisburg

November 11-12, 2022

Chair: [Dr. Roger Subramanian](#)
[Conference website](#)

Submit your abstract by Sept. 5th!

From the Chair

Dear Colleagues,

Greetings from your new Section chair! I hope this finds you all well and enjoying the final weeks of summer.

I am excited to present the very first edition of our fall newsletter, which contains information on upcoming events, conference recaps, calls for award nominations, and open positions within the section.

Also included is a special “Teaching Tip” section, which features a pearl of wisdom and/or a simple classroom tool that you can implement immediately. A big thank you to Dr. Kaitlin Mallouk, Assistant Professor at Rowan University, who has authored this edition’s Teaching Tip!

We have two more great in-person conferences planned for this year:

- **2022 Fall Conference** at Penn State Harrisburg, November 11-12, 2022. Abstract submission is open now until Sept. 5th! See the [conference website](#) for details. Contact Dr. Roger Subramanian (rus30@psu.edu) for further information.
- **2023 Zone 1 (Spring) Conference** at Penn State University Park, March 30-April 1, 2022

These conferences are an excellent way to exchange ideas and start collaborations with colleagues in your local area! Looking forward to connecting with many of you there.

I hope you all have a wonderful semester. Please don’t hesitate to reach out if you have ideas on how we can better serve our Section members.

Best,

Maxine Fontaine

Section Chair, 2022-2023

Stevens Institute of Technology

Teaching Tip

Connecting with your Students – The Curiosity Cabinet

By Dr. Kaitlin Mallouk, Assistant Professor, Rowan University

Can you remember how you felt when a teacher or professor saw you as an individual? Over twenty years later, I still can. Professor T. Michael Duncan, a faculty member in the Chemical Engineering department at Cornell, used my name on the first day of class in my first year when he asked me to turn the lights off in the classroom. I was shocked and gratified and had the first inklings that I belonged. I would seek Professor Duncan out as a teacher and mentor multiple times over the next four years and beyond.

You can foster a sense of belonging and personal value in your students, too. One way to do so is with a first-week of class activity called the Curiosity Cabinet [1]. For the Curiosity Cabinet, each student creates a slide in a shared GoogleSlides deck with their name, their pronouns, and a variety of images that highlight who they are. I always include a slide of my own to give them a

template (on which I put photos of my family and dog, images from my hobbies, and references to my alma maters). During class, you can pair students up to share their Curiosity Cabinet with prompts such as “Tell a story behind at least one of your items” or “Are there items you considered but did not include? Why?”. If you have a small enough class, you can go through each student’s “cabinet” with the entire class and identify trends or themes that you notice (I often have lots of Philadelphia sports teams fans and musicians, for example).

Your use of the Curiosity Cabinet does not have to stop after the first week of class. You can have students use their cabinets to help break the ice when you form teams or to help you remember more about your students when they stop by office hours or send you an email. I have learned so much about my students and individuals since I started using the Curiosity Cabinet in my classes. I hope you’ll consider giving it a try, too!

[1] Tranquillo, J. Reflection Collection #3. www.joetranquillo.com/reflectioncollection . Accessed 10 August 2022.

If you have a great teaching tip to share, please contact our Publicity Chair, Dr. Brad Sottile (bsottile@psu.edu) so we can feature it in our next newsletter!

Call for Nominations – Distinguished Teaching Award

The ASEE Middle Atlantic Section annually recognizes an outstanding engineering or engineering technology educator from the section. The **Distinguished Teaching Award** is designed to provide regional recognition for excellence in outstanding classroom performance, contributions to the scholarship of teaching, and participation in ASEE Section meetings and local activities. This individual is then nominated as the Middle Atlantic Section’s representative for the ASEE National Outstanding Teaching Award for the year.

Further information and instructions for the nomination process can be found here:

<https://forms.gle/Yb7u1g1QYcndVqx6A>

Nominations are due by **Jan 16th, 2023**.

Future Section Conferences

- **2022 Fall Conference** | Penn State Harrisburg | Chair: Dr. Roger Subramanian
- **2023 Zone 1 (Spring) Conference** | Penn State University Park | Chair: Dr. Sarah Zappe

- **2023 Fall Conference** | TBD
- **2024 Spring Conference** | TBD
- **2024 Fall Conference** | Farmingdale State College | Chair: Dr. Eugene Kwak

Interested in hosting a section conference? We are currently seeking a host for our section meeting in Spring 2024 and beyond.

First time hosting a conference? No problem! We are here to help guide you every step of the way. Contact our Meetings Chair, Dr. Pritpal "Pali" Singh (pritpal.singh@villanova.edu) for more information.

Local Announcements

Workshop: America Learns Mathematics

Anyone interested in the future and past of K -12 and college math teaching should view the free ZOOM workshop held at the 2021 annual meeting. The workshop called "America learns Mathematics" was conducted by our own Andrew Grossfield, PhD. The workshop link is [here](#). (No password is needed). Contact Andrew at Grossfield@IEEE.org to obtain a timetable which serves as a video table of contents.

If you have news or events to share with our Section members, please contact our Publicity Chair, Dr. Brad Sottile (bsottile@psu.edu) so we can include it in our next newsletter (spring 2023).

2022 Spring Conference Recap

New Jersey Institute of Technology, Newark, NJ

April 22-23, 2022

Chairs: Drs. Ashish D. Borgaonkar and Jaskirat Sodhi

Theme: "Innovation in Engineering Education"

The Spring 2022 Middle Atlantic ASEE Section conference was hosted in person by the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT). This was the first in-person ASEE-MAS conference since the COVID-19 pandemic disruption. The conference engaged over 150 unique individuals (authors, presenters, attendees, reviewers, and even family members of some of the presenters) and produced 33 papers, 3 workshops, and 6 posters.

The conference featured a keynote presentation titled '*The Small Things We Do That Add Up - Improving the Learning Environment for our Students*,' by Dr. Joe Tranquillo, and a special presentation titled '*Connection is Key*,' by Dr. Kaitlin Mallouk, 2022 ASEE-MAS Distinguished Teaching Award Recipient. In addition, ASEE Learning teamed up with the organizers to offer a comprehensive two-day workshop on *Essentials of Effective Instruction*.

The ASEE-MAS Awards Committee selected the following as the best in their respective categories. The authors will be formally recognized at the Fall 2022 conference (PennState).

- **Best Paper Award:** [*Preservice Teachers' Mechanistic Reasoning about Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence*](#), by Dr. Amy Voss Farris & Ms. Anna Eunji Kim, Penn State University
- **Best Poster Award:** *Using qualitative research methodology to examine women STEM faculty's participation in entrepreneurship education programs*, by Aida Lopez Ruiz, Jacqueline Handley, Dr. Prateek Shekhar & Dr. Aileen Huang-Saad, New Jersey Institute of Technology

The Best Poster Award at this conference was sponsored by *Tech-Ed Systems* (<https://www.tech-edsystems.com/>) and *Leading Engineering Technologies* (<https://www.letllc.net/>). They provide technical equipment to instructors and students in NJ, NY, and PA. Their solutions include a curriculum that allows for hands-on and project-based learning for all.

The conference website (<https://mas2022.njit.edu/>) has been updated to include presentation slides for the keynote, workshops, distinguished teaching award recipient presentation slides, and the final version of the program. All papers have been published on the ASEE PEER platform: <https://peer.asee.org/collections/2022-spring-asee-middle-atlantic-section-conference>

Get Involved!

Interested in becoming more active in our section? We are currently seeking members to fill the following positions:

- **Student Liaison.** Responsible for promoting student engagement and K-12 outreach in the section

Interested in hosting a section conference? We are currently seeking a host for our section meeting in Spring 2024 and beyond.

If you would like to help in a different capacity, please [contact us](#)! We are always open to new ideas for promoting excellence in engineering education.

Stay Connected

Our section website contains information about upcoming events, award recipients, past conferences, and more! You can also find a [list of current officers](#) if you'd like to reach out to us. Check out the ASEE Middle Atlantic Section website here: middleatlantic.asee.org

ASEE Hub is a great way to easily connect with your fellow section members. This forum allows you to post announcements and discussions – an excellent way to form new collaborations and expand your network! Check out our ASEE Hub Middle Atlantic Section Group page: <https://aseehub.asee.org/groups/home/86>