

# Candidate Profile for GSTA 2009 Election

## President-Elect:

### ***Jaymee Herrington:***

Regional Coordinator West GA Youth Science & Technology Center;  
Years of educational experience 11; Grades taught: K-8;  
B.S. Elementary Education / Minor Health Science Sam Houston State University  
Gifted Endorsement – In-Field – Cobb County Schools  
M.Ed. Early Childhood Education – Kennesaw State University

#### ***Honors and Activities:***

2008: - Level 2 Regional Trainer for Dinah Zike Academy and Foldables®  
2007: - Present GSTA / GYSTC Representative GSTA Board of Directors  
2005: - 2007 GSTA Region III Director  
2005: - Present member Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development  
2004: - GSTA Elementary District III Teacher of the Year  
2004: - Graduate of the Cobb County Science Leaders Institute  
2003: - Present NSTA member and presenter  
2002: - GSTA Elementary Teacher of Promise  
2001: - Georgia Project WET Teacher of the Year

#### ***Statement:***

Quality leadership is so important to an organization like GSTA. One must devote time, energy, and passion to see the organization strive, grow and benefit the members. The leader must have the ability to look at the past, present and future of GSTA to ensure growth, maintain respect and foster the history of all of Georgia's Science Teachers. I have been involved in four conferences, served as a voting and non-voting board member, and have seen GSTA flourish and nurture the love of science. From the smallest of schools systems to the halls of the capitol, GSTA has been on the forefront of making science education better for Georgia. I would very much like to devote my time and energy to further that vision. Board experience, classroom experience and connecting to teachers on all levels are a few of my reasons for running for office. Through open communication, instructional leadership and a true love for seeing science as an equal on the curriculum base, I can fulfill the duties of the President Elect with honor and pride bringing GSTA even more accomplishments and successes during my tenure.

### ***Dr. Randy Spaid:***

Associate Professor of Education, Macon State College; Years of educational experience: 30; Grades taught: 9-12, higher ed.

After 24 years teaching high school science, I returned to graduate school (FSU) to earn my doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction-science education. I served at Mercer University for 5 years and was recruited to Macon State College to help develop a middle grades teacher certification program and expand the secondary certification program.

#### ***Honors and Activities:***

past College Representative, GSTA executive Board; Past President, SASTE; Service and Leadership Award, SASTE.

#### ***Statement:***

My 24 years of teaching experience provides insight about what a dynamic, standards-based science learning environment "looks like;" and my extensive knowledge of curriculum and instruction equips me to support and nurture novice science teachers as well as encourage and assist veteran science teachers to implement new strategies to foster critical thinking during science inquiry activities. My technology expertise compliments my leadership initiatives to integrate digital new media tools in science teaching which may sustain student engagement and increase motivation and achievement. My service to GSTA as College Representative and service to SASTE as Past President prepares me to lead with enthusiasm, perseverance, and humility.

## **Vice-President:**

### ***Chris Kennedy:***

Science Teacher; Years of educational experience: 15; Grades taught: 9-12;  
BS. Ed. Secondary Science Education – Miami University, Oxford OH  
M.Ed. Secondary Science Education – University of West Georgia, Carrollton, GA

#### ***Honors and Activities:***

AAAS Award for Leadership in Science Education - Recipient of Prize for a High School Teacher - 2007  
Georgia Science Teachers Association - District I Director – 2007-09  
Georgia Science Education Advisory Committee – 2008-09  
National Science Teachers Association – Presenter at National/Regional Conferences – 2006, 2007, 2009  
Georgia Science Teachers Association – Presenter at State Conference on Science Education – 2006-2009  
Consultant/Presenter – Georgia Teacher Quality Grant at Kennesaw State University – 2007-08  
Consultant/Presenter – Math & Science Partnership Grants – Cobb County Schools,  
Paulding County Schools – 2007-09

**Statement:** Having served on the Board for the past two years, I feel I have an understanding of the procedures and priorities of the organization. I believe that I can bring additional ideas for improving services provided to our membership and use technology to facilitate this process. I will provide input toward the planning and implementation of our annual Conference so this event will continue to be both cost-effective and educational for the attendees. Finally, I would like to improve communication with teacher preparation institutions and pre-service teachers so that we may serve as a resource for the “next generation” of science teachers in Georgia

### ***Jan Nourollahi:***

Science Coordinator, K-12, Cherokee County Schools; Years of educational experience: 20; Grades taught: 8-12; B.S. Biology, University of Tennessee; M.Ed., Science Education, Georgia State University; Ed. S, Technology Education, Lesley University.

#### ***Honors and Activities:***

NABT State Representative; GSTA presenter; Science Department Chair; AP Biology Reader; AP Biology State Presenter

#### ***Statement:***

As a science educator for over twenty years, I understand the need to promote innovative ways to engage students and teach the GPS Science Standards. More than ever, science educators are challenged to help students compete in a complex global economy. Without a strong science curriculum in our schools and professional support for our teachers Georgia's economic future is at stake. I will work to promote the goals of GSTA and continue the tradition of excellence in science education.

## **College Representative:**

### ***Verilette Hinkle:***

Associate Professor, Valdosta State University, Department of Curriculum, Leadership, and Technology; Years of education experience: 34; Grade levels taught: Pre-school, K-8, Teacher Professional Development at Miami Museum of Science, Undergraduate College Level Courses and Graduate College Level Courses (M. Ed., Ed. S. and Ed. D.), Teacher Professional Development for Coastal Plains RESA Ed. D. Valdosta State University (1999) - - - Education (Curriculum and Instruction)

M. Ed. University of Maryland (1978) - - - Education

B. S. University of Maryland (1972) - - - Elementary Education, Minor: Science Education

Received Georgia Educator Certificate 7/08: Educational Leadership (P-12), Early Childhood Education, and Middle Grades

#### ***Honors and Activities:***

Co-Director of 2008 Summer Science Workshop for Coastal Plains RESA Mathematics and Science Partnership (MSP) Project at Valdosta State University; Director of 2005-2007 Science Programs for Middle Grades, Coastal Plains RESA Mathematics and Science Partnership (MSP) Project at Valdosta State University; Hinkle, K. T., Parker-Hinkle, V. A., & Monetti, D. (2004, January). *What a difference a Data-In-A-Day makes*. Paper presented at the meeting of the 2004 Hawaii International Conference on Education, Honolulu, Hawaii. Gerber, B.L., Price, C., Barnes, M., Hinkle, V., Barnes, L., Gordon, P., Stanley, L. (2003,

March). *Excellence in rural science teaching: Examining elements of professional development models*. Paper presented at the meeting of the National Association of Research in Science Teaching, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Parker, V. A. & Gerber, B. L. (2003). Science festival fun: A teaching and learning experience. In C. Reinburg, J. Cusick, C. Duval, and B. Smith (Eds.), *Science fairs plus* (pp. 86-89). Arlington, Virginia: NSTA Press.

**Statement:**

As a college representative for GSTA, I would use my knowledge and skills as acquired from my classroom teaching experiences (Pre-K through eighth grade, undergraduate and graduate teaching experiences, teacher professional development workshops) and educational coursework from degree programs (Bachelor of Science,

Masters of Education, and Doctorate of Education in Curriculum and Instruction) to promote and support exemplary science teaching and learning through the following activities: (a) Attend meetings of the Executive Board and

Hinkle (cont'd)

represent concerns at that instructional level; (b) Encourage GSTA membership; (c) Submit information, news, and at least one article for an instructional column in *Observations The Georgia Science Teacher*; (d) Assist conference coordinator with identification and solicitation of appropriate workshops; (e) Lead a Share-a-thon session at the GSTA Conference to trade ideas with other educators. I believe my experiences in working with children and other educators during the past 34 years have prepared me for this position.

**Middle School Representative:**

**Rebekah Gibson:** Teacher, Fulton County Schools; Years of educational experience: 5; Grades taught: 6(current), 7 &8;

B.S., Forestry Services, University of Georgia  
M.S., Soils and Hydrology, University of Georgia  
Teaching Certification, North Georgia University

**Honors and Activities:**

Currently working on National Board Certification and Georgia Master Teacher Certification  
Science Chair for my grade level and also sit on Fulton County's Vertical Team  
Gifted Endorsement

**Statement:** I am a highly motivated and energetic middle school science teacher. I have been a member of NSTA for 5 years and I use their organization as a way to stay updated in science, technology and new educational practices. My goals as an educator are to stay ahead of the curve in technology and interdisciplinary curriculum. I have worked in a laboratory setting at UGA, produced a master thesis that contained an *in situ* field component, and worked with local developers implementing EPD compliance of water quality in my prior job. I have a deep love for learning and sharing this love with others invigorates me. I feel I have the ability to spark this interest in other teachers and I am looking for an opportunity to share my knowledge and learn from other educators.

**Jan Rebel:** Sixth grade science teacher, Gwinette County Schools; Years of educational experience : 12; Grades taught: 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

I became a National Board Certified Teacher in 2003. I have a Specialist Degree in Middle Grades Education, and Masters in Middle Grades Education from Mercer University with concentrations in middle school science. I also am a Georgia certified gifted teacher. I have taught middle school regular education and gifted classes, in Earth, Life, and Physical Science to sixth, seven and eight graders.

**Honors and Activities:**

GSTA Board Middle School Representative Fall 2008-present  
GSTA District 12 Director 2005-07  
National Board Certified Teacher 2003  
Nominated for teacher of the year for Duluth Middle School 2005-08  
Teacher Quality Grants: S.A. P.E.L.O. (Scientists And Professional Educators Learning Outdoors 2004-08),  
Environmental Education Research Academy 2007, Rivers to Reefs 2006 Georgia Aquarium

**Statement:**

While serving on the GSTA board for the last three years, I realize my positive contributions and special skills are I represent the "voice" of the classroom teacher. I have experience teaching all three levels of middle school science. I have a passion for middle school science and I believe the force of GSTA can support us, and bring positive changes. My past experience as the District 12 director and the appointment

for Middle School Representative, I realize the discussions and decisions from the GSTA board meetings need the input from what is happening or not happening in our science classrooms. Serving as the District 12 director, I heard from the District 12 community we need a communication system to support our efforts in the classroom beyond the GSTA conference. I will use the GSTA resources to develop a communication system between the middle school GSTA members. I will support your needs and represent your voices from the classroom. As the middle school representative, I promise your GSTA membership will support you beyond the yearly conference.

### **District Director 1**

**Rie Cowan:** Teacher, Hiram High School, Paulding County Schools; Years of educational experience:17; Grades taught: 6-12.

BS Biology – University of Charleston

M.Ed. Science – The Citadel

Masters in Leadership – Kennesaw University

**Honors and Activities:**

2004 HHS Teacher of Year, Paulding County Teacher of the Year, GSTA Secondary Representative, GSTA registration chair

National Board Certified

**Statement:**

Having worked on the GSTA Board for the past three years I have become familiar with both the board and membership of GSTA. I will continue to work with GSTA to help provide a conference which offers the membership a variety of sessions and events to better science teaching.

### **District Director 3:**

**Rebecca A. Brown:**

Science Department Chair, Milton High School, Fulton County Schools; Years of educational experience: 10; Grades taught: 9-12;

B.S., Forestry Resources, University of Georgia

M. Ed., Georgia State University

**Honors and Activities:**

Presented at GSTA, Athens,2008: “Let’s Get Vertical: Using vertical teams to improve students success”

Executive Committee Member of the Georgia Chapter of American Fisheries Society, 2005-present

Presented at Annual Georgia Aquaculture Association Meeting, Macon, GA 1995- “The pros and cons of using recirculation systems for raising catfish”

Best Student Paper at American Fisheries Society Southeast Student Colloquium, Crosnore, SC, 1994- “The effects of eutrophication on aquatic systems”

**Statement:**

I not only offer leadership experience, but I also offer my commitment to the Georgia Science Teachers Association and its mission. I will spend time to find resources teachers can use to enhance the way they teach the Georgia Performance Standards for Science. I will work to create opportunities for science teachers from all grades to attend workshops together. The next few years are going to be stressful for science teachers with increases in class size followed by budget cuts. Teachers are going to need to stay motivated and need ideas for laboratory activities that fit within their budges. We need to develop some ideas as to how we can keep teachers in the profession. Furthermore, I will work to increase membership in my district

**Ugo A. Kalu:**

Science teacher, Atlanta City Schools; Years of educational experience; 24; Grades taught: 9-12;

My background includes a B.Sc. degree in biology, a Masters degree in Science Education and a Ph.D. degree in Educational Administration with a minor in Science Curriculum and Instruction.

**Honors and Activities:**

I am currently a GSTA Board Member, serving in the capacity of District III Director. I was Teacher of the Year, Alonzo A. Crim Comprehensive high School, 2004-2005 and runner-up System-wide High School Teacher of the year. B.T. Washington High School, Stellar Teacher Award, 2000, 2001, 2002. D. M. Therrell Comprehensive High School Teacher of the Year, 1993. Tandy Technology Scholar, Outstanding Teacher, 1993.

**Statement:**

If I am re-elected District III director, I will redouble efforts to increase our membership by providing worth while resources to share with our members during our District wide meetings. I plan to communicate more regularly with District III members by forwarding pertinent and timely information to everybody. I plan to have volunteer school level GSTA representatives who would help remind members at each school, of upcoming events and deadlines. This move may help increase our memberships at the school level and ultimately at district level. In addition to attending all board meetings, I will contribute opinions on board decisions.

**District Director 5**

**Zoe O. Evans:**

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Life Science Teacher/Grade Level Chair, Carroll County Schools; Years of educational experience: 16; Grades taught: 7<sup>th</sup>

Educational Leadership ~ State University of West Georgia 2008

National Board Certified Teacher ~ NBPTS ~ Early Adolescence Science 2004

EdS. Middle Grades Education/Science ~ State University of West Georgia 2002

M.Ed. Middle Grades Education/Science ~ State University of West Georgia 1998

B.S. Middle Grades Education ~ West Georgia College 1993

**Honors and Activities:**

Presidential Award of Excellence for Science and Mathematics 2005

Science Education Advisory Committee ~ Present

Seventh Grade Science Frameworks Committee ~ Present

GSTA Conference Presenter ~ 2007, 2008, 2009

GSTA District V Director

Central Middle School Teacher of the Year 2006-2007

Carroll County Schools Teacher of the Year, 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-Up 2006-2007

**Statement:**

If elected to this position, the Georgia Science Teachers Association would have an Executive Board Member who is dedicated to the advancement of both science education and science teachers within the state of Georgia. I would willingly dedicate my time, my talents, and my services towards this purpose. I am a proven hard-worker with an ability to get along with just about everyone. I have a strong work ethic and take pleasure in rolling up my sleeves and truly getting involved in a project. I have the ability to get along with just about anyone and I possess a good sense of humor. My strengths include being extremely flexible in my thinking and approach to problem solving, the ability to see the potential in all situations, and an over-achiever mindset that helps me stay driven towards a goal.

**District Director 7**

**Brian David Butler:**

Physical Science Teacher, Miller Magnet Middle School, Bibb County Schools; Years of educational experience: 2; Grades taught: 8<sup>th</sup>:

M. A., Teaching, Georgia College and State University, 2007, Most Outstanding Academic Student

B. S., Meteorology, University of Oklahoma. 2001, area of concentration in Business

**Honors and Activities:**

GA DOE Course Development: Co-wrote New Meteorology course standards

Bibb County BOE Math-Science Partnership Grant Program Management Team

2008 Textbook Selection Committee

Miller Magnet Middle School Science Department Co-chair; 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Chair; Better Seeking Team

**Statement:**

Through my experience as a science educator and leadership skills developed as a United States Air Force Weather Officer between 2001 and 2005, I believe I can facilitate lines of communication between GSTA and science educators in District 7. I also desire to provide links between academic science and real-world applications of science as well as their relationships to mathematics and technology. Most importantly, with a life-long passion for learning and science, I would be honored to serve GSTA and the educators of District 7.

## **District Director 9**

### ***Nelson Perry Patton:***

Life Science Teacher, Richmond County Schools; Years of educational experience: 7; Grades taught: 3 years at college level and 4 years in 7<sup>th</sup>;

1983 Associate Degree in Engineering from Georgia Military College

1986 BA History with a math minor from Augusta State University

2007 Masters of Arts and Teaching from Augusta State University

May 2009 Educational Specialist degree in Leadership from Augusta State University

**Statement:** I am a well rounded and grounded leader that relates extremely well with my peers and my students. I enjoy teaching and coaching at my school. I also work well with others and enjoy developing or improving strategies to help our children become better students. I am very talented in all aspects of computer technology and a details oriented person.

## **District Director 11**

### ***Cisco Diaz:***

Life Science Teacher, Valdosta Middle School, Lowndes County Schools; Years of educational experience: 3 ½; Grades taught: 7<sup>th</sup>,

B.S. in Biology from Valdosta State University

M.S. in Biology from Georgia College & State University

Ed.S. in Educational Leadership from Valdosta State University

#### ***Honors and Activities:***

Advisory Board Member for Valdosta State University's Department of Middle, Secondary, Reading, and Deaf Education.

Staff Council Member for Valdosta Middle School.

Valdosta State University's Department of Middle, Secondary, Reading, and Deaf Education

Most Outstanding Student for the ACT program.

#### ***Statement:***

I have a great relationship with many educators within South Georgia including many professors within Valdosta State University that could help provide positive contributions to GSTA. I am constantly seeking to improve science education within my school and district and would value the opportunity to provide recommendations on the GSTA level. I can provide assistance to others in the area of inquiry and standards-based teaching since this is a strong area of mine. I bring six years of education and experience in the area of biology.

Dedication to continue to play a vital role in GSTA in the years to come.

[www.georgiascienceteacher.org](http://www.georgiascienceteacher.org)