



**Mission: To promote and facilitate experiential learning.**

*www.austinaccess.org*

February 2010 Newsletter



### Traveling Exhibits Professional Development

ACCESS to Learning, Inc. Board Members Terry Loessin and Sue Soy again this year provided exhibits to travel through Austin Independent School District Schools. Buck Cole, Outreach Specialist for the Texas General Land Office, provided staff development. As a former teacher, Buck stressed how the exhibits can be excellent resources for teaching Texas History and Geography. The two exhibits touring schools this year are: Yanqui Invasion: The U.S.-Mexican War, 1848/Invasion and Neches Journeys: Land, River and People. This program is made possible in part by a grant from Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



**ACCESS to Learning, Inc. ANNUAL MEETING  
February 18, 2010**



**Don Cook, Former Board Member Receives Honorary Membership**

**We appreciated the Neill-Cochran House Museum’s Director Cecille Marcato who hosted our Annual Meeting. As well as honoring Don Cook, we approved our revised 2004 Bylaws and our 2009-2010 Board of Directors.**

**Thank you to Lynn Bell and Rosemary Morrow for editing, updating, and proposing the bylaws. Also, to Lucy May, for organizing the Annual Meeting!**

## **The following are the Board of Directors for 2009-2010**

**President:** Donna Vliet, Texas State University, Adjunct Professor  
**Treasurer:** Becki Skillern, Accountant, Kirkland, Washington  
**Secretary:** Sharyn Westmoreland, Texas Historical Commission (retired)  
**Communications:**  
Jen Webel, Art Teacher, St. Gabriel's Catholic School  
Gloria Espitia, Austin Public Library/Austin History Center  
**Membership:** Kathy Wittig, Librarian, Covington Middle School, AISD

**Traveling Exhibitions Program:**  
Terry Loessin, Social Studies Curriculum Specialist, AISD  
Sue Soy, Grants and Records Manager, Austin Public Library

**Sustainable Energy Program:**  
Natalie Marquis, Texas Solar Energy Society, Executive Director  
Pauline Walker, Kindergarten Teacher, Maplewood Elementary School, AISD

**Summer Institute:**  
Kris Dunham, Art Teacher, Gullett Elementary School, AISD

**Annual Meeting:**  
Lynn Bell, Assistant Director of Exhibits and Material Culture, UT Austin, Briscoe Center for American History  
Lucy May, Bilingual Second Grade Teacher, Oak Hill Elementary School, AISD  
Rosemary Morrow, Director of Social Studies, TEA

### **Sustainable Energy Program**

In February, Dr. Gary Vliet provided a solar energy lesson to an after-school science class with the help of Dr. Pauline Walker, the kindergarten teacher at Maplewood Elementary School, Austin Independent School District. Following the discussion of solar energy with the students, Dr. Vliet and Dr. Walker worked with the students to build solar cars with kits provided by the Texas Solar Energy Society. This coming spring, two more schools are planning on inviting Dr. Vliet to bring this presentation and solar car building to their schools. Please let us know if know of a school who might be interested in this program.

### **Summer Institute**

Planning has begun on the ACCESS to Learning Summer Institute. The tentative dates are Saturday (Saturday all day), June 5<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup> (Sunday afternoon only). The UT Briscoe Center for American History and The LBJ Library are launching an exhibit of the works of Walter Cronkite, which will be the focus of our institute. This is going to be a VERY popular institute and Kris Dunham, who is helping to plan the institute, will be sending you information in March.

## **Austin History Center**

**Please join us for the monthly "Behind These Walls" Tour of the Austin History, 810 Guadalupe.**

**Reservations are required and can be made by calling 974-7499 or emailing [director@ahca.net](mailto:director@ahca.net).**

Spaces are limited. The tour is free to current AHCA members. Non-members are asked to consider making an optional donation for the tour -- or better yet -- joining AHCA.

Naturally, we're biased about the high-quality experience this tour provides. All who take this tour marvel at the material, media, and architectural-drawings archives; the history and stories about the collection; and, the building's fabulous architectural features. The tour provides guided access to the vast non-public areas of the Austin History Center. The Austin of the past will be revealed to you in a way you can't possibly imagine.

This spring, tours are scheduled on the following dates:

**Tuesday, March 9 at 6:15 PM**

**Tuesday, April 13 at 6:15 PM**

**Tuesday, May 11 at 6:15 PM**

Feel free to call 974-7499 to make reservations for any of these tours.

We hope you will join us this spring Behind These Walls!

Sincerely,  
Jeff Cohen, Executive Director  
Austin History Center Association

## **Texas Natural Science Center Events and Teacher Training Opportunities Spring 2010**

### *Events*

**Explore UT: Saturday, March 6, 2010, from 11 am–5 pm**

Location: Texas Memorial Museum, Austin, Texas

Join us for Explore UT, a campus-wide event described as the "Biggest Open House in Texas!" Visitors of all ages have the opportunity to experience a variety of programs that are engaging and inspiring.

FREE activities include exploration of natural history specimens at interactive booths

hosted by University of Texas at Austin scientists, digging in the Fossil Dig Pit, fossil identifications, and talks led by Texas Natural Science Center scientists.

For more information, visit [http://www.utexas.edu/tmm/events/explore\\_ut/](http://www.utexas.edu/tmm/events/explore_ut/).

### *Teacher Training*

**Basic Bones & Bites: An Introduction to Mammalian Skeletal and Dental Anatomy Workshop dates (choose one): Saturday, March 27, 2010 or Saturday, May 8, 2010  
Location: Texas Memorial Museum, Austin, Texas**

In this FREE workshop, teachers will work with a University of Texas at Austin mammalogist to:

- investigate how anatomy is integral to understanding biological evolution
- apply basic physics and mathematics to analyze skull form and function
- make predictions about behavior and diet and hypothesize evolutionary relationships
- demonstrate the use of dichotomous keys for identification of mammals

Visit <http://www.utexas.edu/tmm/education/profdev/evol-spring-10/index.html> for more information and to register for the workshop.

**Evolution in the Fossil Record  
Workshop dates: June 14–18, 2010  
Location: Texas Memorial Museum, Austin, Texas**

In *Evolution in the Fossil Record*, educators will work with University of Texas at Austin scientists to:

- investigate lines of evidence for biological evolution,
- apply relative and absolute dating methods;
- observe and document changes over long periods of Earth's history,
- conduct paleontology field work;
- and much more!

For more information and to apply for the workshop, visit <http://www.utexas.edu/tmm/education/profdev/evol-sum-10/index.html>

**Variation, Selection and Inheritance  
Workshop dates: June 21–25, 2010  
Location: Texas Memorial Museum, Austin, Texas**

In *Variation, Selection, and Inheritance*, educators will work with University of Texas at Austin scientists to:

- explore the history of evolutionary thinking;
- extract and sequence DNA,
- investigate genotypic and phenotypic variation,
- compare and contrast the morphology of humans and their closest living relatives,
- and much more!

For more information and to apply for the workshop, visit  
<http://www.utexas.edu/tmm/education/profdev/evol-sum-10/index.html>

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

