

# Informally Speaking

Newsletter

Issue 27 Fall 2017



## Message From the President

Fall at the Dallas Arboretum means 90,000 pumpkins, and, this year, mild weather and a popular theme has resulted in record public visitor numbers. It also means a significant influx of field trips and professional development workshops. In addition, our staff, like many of you, has been scurrying around the city attending open houses and family nights, as well as educational talks and conferences. For many this year, fall means continued cleanup and rebuilding due to Hurricane Harvey.

How many times have you thought, I need to get that ISEA proposal in? Well, you're not the only one! In short: we've heard from many of you that you need a bit more time to submit sessions for ISEA 2017: Seeds of Change. Therefore, we have extended our conference proposal deadline until **Monday, November 6, 2017**. [Submit your proposal today.](#)

Also, I want to point out that, for the first time, we will be sharing a contact list with school teacher's attending CAST. So, if you have yet to do so, [please submit your organizations contact information here](#) to be included in the list. We know that many sites can't afford a booth, so this is your free opportunity to market your programs!

In this newsletter, you'll find a complete listing of this year's ISEA CAST strand. Thank you to our partners for submitting and presenting under the ISEA name! We also have conference information, including our scholarship details and link, Rigor's pick and a member feature from a recent event at Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

Happy fall and don't forget to stop by the ISEA booth at CAST!

Best regards,  
Dustin Miller

## ISEA in Texas

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## Check out CAST 2017!



The 2017 Conference for the Advancement of Science Teaching (CAST) will be held in Houston, November 9-11. We look forward to seeing you at this annual event that brings science teachers from all over Texas together to celebrate science education. CAST registration is now open.

**Read more**



Facebook Friend Rigor  
TODAY!

## **CAST 2017**

### **ISEA Presentations**

We hope you will take the opportunity to check some of these sessions/workshops out while you are in Houston this November.

#### **Can't leave your classroom? Let us come to you!**

By Sasha Orman, Texas State Aquarium  
Thursday 8:00-9:00am, GRB - 381 C

#### **Quick and Easy Science (STEM) Starters**

by Kristi Eschberger, Girlstart, Ellen Quigley, Girlstart, Shelby Schaefer, Girlstart  
Thursday 11:30-12:30pm, GRB - 381 C

#### **Improving Literacy and Reading Comprehension in Science Through Journal Writing** (short course)

by Dr. Lucinda N Sohn, Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi, Dr. Lucinda Juarez, University of Texas at San Antonio, Cynthia Hopkins, Corpus Christi Independent School District  
Thursday 1:00-4:00pm, Hilton Room - 337 B

#### **Expedition Mars**

by Celina Terrones, Scobee Education Center at San Antonio College  
Thursday 1:30-2:30pm, GRB - 381 C

#### **A Novel Approach to Impact Biodiversity**

by Tracy Friday Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT)  
Thursday 3:00-4:00pm, GRB - 381 C

#### **From Hoop Gliders to Earthquake Towers - Where to Find TEKS-aligned Hands-on Activities**

by Tricia Berry, Women in Engineering Program at The University of Texas at Austin, Gina Higby, Women in Engineering Program at The University of Texas at Austin, Kristi Eschberger, Girlstart, and Katelyn Wamsted, Girlstart  
Thursday 4:30-5:30pm, GRB - 381 C

#### **Creating Conservation Champions!**

by Joanne Baptista and DeAndra Ramsey, Houston Zoo  
Friday 8:00-9:00am, GRB - 381 C

#### **10 Fantastic Force and Motion Activities for your Classroom**

by Christina Soontornvat, iFLY Indoor Skydiving  
Friday 9:30-10:30am, GRB - 381 C

#### **It was a Dark and Stormy Grant Proposal: How to Write Grants People Want to Read**

by Christina Soontornvat, Christina Soontornvat Consulting  
Friday 11:00am-12:00pm, GRB - 381C

#### **Modeling the Expanding Universe with McDonald Observatory**

by Dr Keely Finkelstein, McDonald Observatory at The University of Texas at Austin, Marc Wetzel, McDonald Observatory at The University of Texas at Austin, Dr. Judy Meyer, McDonald Observatory at The University of Texas at Austin  
Friday 1:30-2:30pm, GRB - 381C

## **Excite and Engage Kids in Hands-on STEM with Free Educator Resources in English and Spanish**

by Joanne Baptista, Houston Zoo, Tricia Berry, Women in Engineering Program at The University of Texas at Austin, Gina Higby, The University of Texas at Austin, Katelyn Wamsted, Girlstart  
Friday 3:00-4:00pm, GRB - 381C

## **Early Childhood Science Conversations with Bella the Begonia**

by Cheryl Potemkin, Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT)  
Friday 4:30-5:30pm, GRB - 381 C

## **P.L.A.Y. (Play, Learning, Adventure, and YOU!)**

by Kate Unger, Houston Zoo  
Saturday 8:00-9:00am, GRB - 381 C

## **Create a Meaningful STEM After School Program Just for Girls**

by Itzel Gutierrez, Girlstart, Hailey Gottardy, Girlstart  
Saturday 9:30-10:30am, GRB - 381 C

## **Engaging High School Students in Future Water Quality Challenges**

by Melissa Mullins, Baylor University Center for Reservoir and Aquatic Systems Research  
Saturday 11:00am-12:00pm, GRB - 381C

Times & Room numbers are subject to change. Please visit the [CAST](#) website to verify schedule.

## **Read more**

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## **Rigor's Picks**

### *Recommendations to support you*

The Community Outdoor Outreach Program (CO-OP)  
2018 Application is NOW open!

This is a community based program to promote environment and conservation education for under served populations. Learn more about this opportunity to develop your community program. Check out the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department [website](#) for more information.



Rigor's Picks is just a snapshot. If you have any recommendations you would like to share in the fall newsletter email [nicki.sohn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nicki.sohn@sbcglobal.net). Remember to go to our Facebook page to check out even more that is going on around Texas as well as throughout the country.

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## **Seeds of Change**

### **ISEA 2018 Conference**

A lot going on behind the scenes! Look forward to presentations that are hands-on, STEM packed, and with information about program development, planning, assessment, and evaluation. Looking for partners in your community? Need help deciding how to prepare your education staff? Looking for some how to tips? Visit our website for more information about how to register for the 2018 Annual ISEA Seeds of Change Conference in Fort Worth. Come hang out with us at the Botanical Research Institute of Texas.

## **Conference Scholarships**

Scholarship applications for the 2018 ISEA Conference are NOW OPEN.

[Click here to complete the online application.](#)

Applications are due **Friday, December 1st.**

Scholarship applicants and recipients will be notified by **Friday, December 15th.**

ISEA 2018 SEEDS OF CHANGE  
FEBRUARY 21-23  
BOTANICAL RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS  
& FORT WORTH BOTANIC GARDEN  
FORT WORTH, TX



## ISEA Board Highlight

*We serve You!*

The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center was the location for the Children in Nature Collaborative of Austin on Thursday evening, October 19. Anjdi Fry and Justine Salisbury represented ISEA at the social event. They took the opportunity to talk about ISEA and to lead a bug sweeping activity with bug nets. What a great night and thank you ladies for your dedication to Texas informal education. Please check out the [Facebook post](#) and learn more about [CiNCA](#).

**Read more**



[Forward this email](#)

ISEA Texas

