

AITC Gets New Website

By Lauren Thom



Louisiana AITC is on the grow! We are excited to announce we have launched our own independent website. You can find the same features that were on the Farm Bureau website and we have also added more features.

State Coordinator, Lynda Danos says, "We wanted to be able to put more features online and make it user-friendly with our own site navigation. We are going to be adding even more features soon." For the first time ever, you can apply for the 2007 AITC Teacher of the Year online as well as read the latest issue of *Sow, Grow and Know* all on the AITC website.

Your suggestions for the new website are welcome. The website was designed to be a tool for you and any ideas that you have to improve or simplify the way the website is set up is much appreciated. ☺

FARM BUREAU LOUISIANA 2007 Photo Contest



Give us your best shot! Once again, the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation's Community Outreach Program is presenting the "Faces of Farm Bureau" photo contest. This is the fifth year the contest is

being held and every year more young people participate. The contest is open only to high school students living in Louisiana. The deadline for entries is Friday, April 20, 2007. Students can either submit their entry online by uploading their photo or they can mail their entry to the Farm Bureau state office. Students can submit up to three photos that they feel best communicates the theme "life in your rural community or on the farm." Winners will receive cash prizes ranging in amounts from \$250 to \$50. Your support is needed to help promote the contest among your students. For more information, visit www.lfbf.org/photocontest.html or contact Lauren Thom at 225.922.6390. ☺



SOW, GROW & KNOW

A bi-annual publication for the Louisiana Ag in the Classroom Educators

Hollier Named 2006 AITC Teacher of the Year

By Michael Danna

Cynthia Hollier knows that farmers today have a tough time making a living. Just like the Aztecs 800 years ago, it was, and still is, hard to be a farmer, she tells her 5th grade class. So today her students will learn how important farmers were, and are, to any organized civilization.

Her students at Central Middle School are learning about farming during the pre-Columbian, specifically how the Aztecs built something called a chinapas (chin-op-us), a kind of floating farm field that helped them feed a civilization of more than 200,000 some 300 years before Columbus discovered the New World.

And while the Aztecs used a host of resources to keep these chinapas going and growing, Hollier's students are reproducing the medium with clay and Popsicle sticks.

"I'd been wanting to do the lesson on the chinapas for three years now and AITC's program enabled me to teach that lesson," Hollier said. I wanted my students to understand that no matter when farming takes place, it's always been a challenge, but also a necessity.

The Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation named Hollier its 2006 Ag in the Classroom Teacher of the Year. The 13-year-



Hollier giving an AITC lesson to her students

veteran science teacher has been using materials in her classroom for the last two years after fellow teacher Amy Duplechin was named AITC's outstanding teacher in 2004.

The AITC program recognizes teachers who work to incorporate agriculture into their daily lesson plans, while showcasing the importance of farming to Louisiana and the nation. Hollier said AITC's hands-on approach helps students better understand concepts and conclusions.

"They need to know that without farming we really can't exist," she continued. "In this case, I wanted the children to understand that farming has been around for a long time and that, like today, it was hard back then to grow food. But in order to feed your people you have to find a way to make farming work."

Wise words from a woman who grew up on a South Louisiana rice farm, where members of her family still farm and raise cattle today. And while these 5th graders live in the heart of farm country in St. Landry Parish, many aren't familiar with farming's importance to their local communities.

"I wanted them to know that just because their families aren't involved in agriculture, that doesn't mean farming doesn't affect them," Hollier said. "This lesson about the Aztecs showed that without successful farming practices, the entire civilization was at risk."

"Cynthia's work with her students shows she understands what farming means to her community and its success," said Maryledden Danos, Chair of the Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom Committee. "When we recognize teachers like her, we want to engage them in a host of programs that benefit not only the school, but the parishwide education system as a whole."

As the 2006 AITC teacher of the year Hollier received \$500 from AITC. She also attended the National Ag in the Classroom Teacher Conference in Atlantic City, June 20-24. ☺

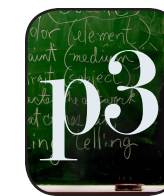
Ag in the Classroom Louisiana
P.O. Box 95004
Baton Rouge, LA 70895-9004



Got Ag in your Classroom? If so, you could be the 2007 AITC Teacher of the Year.



News You Can Use 2007 Educator Scholarship Winners



2007 AITC Conference Get ready to put some spice in your students' lives.



AITC on the web We've got a new website and all of your favorite AITC resources at your fingertips.

2007 National AITC Conference 101

Here are some answers to some frequently asked questions about this year's Conference. You can find additional info online at www.aitcla.org.

Who is invited?

Educators of all grade levels, Administrators, Curriculum Developers, Career Guidance Counselors, Teacher Aides, Substitute Teachers, AITC Volunteers, State AITC Contacts, Agricultural Science Teachers, Extension Educators. AITC Board Members, Agricultural Industry Representatives

What will I experience?

Traveling workshops, a variety of hands-on workshops and mini workshops, Make-and-Take Fair, Special Ag-Designed Teacher Store. You can get more detailed information on the traveling workshops and pre and post-conference tours at www.aitcla.org

Where will the conference be held?

The Conference will be held at the New Orleans Marriott. To reserve a room, call Marriott Reservations at (800) 654-3990. Be sure to say you are with the National Ag in the Classroom conference. Room rates are \$110 per night single occupancy and \$120 per night double/triple/quad occupancy, plus applicable state and local taxes. Current taxes are 13% plus a \$3.00 occupancy tax. Reservations must be made by May 7, 2007. All reservation requests and/or changes in reservations received after this date will be accepted on a space available basis. Hotel parking is currently \$30 per night. Prices are subject to change.

Anything else I should know?

Bring an extra suitcase because you'll take home numerous free kits, lesson plans and other teaching materials. Bring a camera too. You'll also get to enjoy a free evening to explore New Orleans at your leisure while you network with educators from all across the United States!

2007 Educator Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to the following educators for being awarded a 2007 Educator Scholarship. The scholarships are being provided by the Louisiana Foundation for Ag in the Classroom and the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation.

E. Baton Rouge: Brandie McNabb, Diane Nunnery, Tiffany Coulon, Megan Noel

Franklin: Kitty Thomas

Grant: Debra MaFarland

Lafourche: Katherine Caire, Tricia Thibodaux, Rhea Barker, Judy Poimboeuf

Lincoln: Aleta Overby

Livingston: Jeanne Varnado

Madison: Hazel Suluki

Sabine: Debra Fontenot, Hollie Jenkins

St. John: Margaret Perret

The purpose of the program is to provide funds to attend the National Ag in the Classroom Conference in New Orleans in June. Recipients of the award will have their conference registration and three nights lodging paid:

Acadia: Dawn Williams, Frances Miller, Donna Dover, Monica Fontenot

Assumption: Robin Dugas

Avoyelles: Jenise Mertens, Renee Turner, Sharon Hargis

Calcasieu: Pamela Helms, Mitzi Fontenot, JoAnn Winfrey, Dorothy Thomason, Carla Denison Cormier

DeSoto: Bernardine "Sissy" Williams, Lori Dick

St. Landry: Amy Duplechin

Union: Guy Watkins

W. Carroll: January "Nicky" Lingo, Roselie Overby, Mary Hillman, Tammy Simms



Conference Registration Has Begun



Registration for the 2007 National AITC Conference is now available online at www.aitcla.org. The conference will be held June 6-9, 2007 in New Orleans. Don't wait to register, early registration ends April 1 and after that date, the price goes up \$50.

This is going to be an incredible opportunity to network with other educators who are putting AITC to work in their classrooms. There is a wide array of workshops scheduled as well as some pre and post-conference tours. Visit our website to learn more about what's being planned for this year's conference.

For your convenience, we have also included a conference registration form in this newsletter. For more information contact Lynda Danos at 225.922.6503 or by email at lyndad@lfbf.org

2007 NATIONAL AITC CONFERENCE June 6-9, 2007, New Orleans Marriott, New Orleans, Louisiana

Name _____ Organization/School _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____ Is this your first AITC Conference? Yes No

Full Registration	Total
Includes 8 meal events, all sessions and traveling workshops	
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Registration (postmarked by April 1) \$350	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Registration (after April 1, May 7 deadline to register) \$400	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Late Registration (postmarked between May 8-May 21) \$450	\$ _____
SINGLE DAY REGISTRATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday, June 6 (exhibits, make & take, banquet) \$70	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday, June 7 (exhibits, sessions, 3 meals) \$150	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday, June 8 (traveling workshops, 2 meals) \$150	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday, June 9 (sessions, 2 meals) \$100	\$ _____
OPTIONAL TOURS (more details at www.agclassroom.org)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wed, Jun 3 6: Pre-Conference Swamp & Plantation Tour @ \$70	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Sat, June 9: Post-Conf. City Tour & Jazz Dinner Cruise @ \$85	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Sat, June 9: Post-Conference Jazz Dinner Cruise @ \$53	\$ _____
SPECIAL EVENT GUEST TICKETS	
<input type="checkbox"/> Opening Banquet: Mardi Gras Mambo (Wed, June 6) @ \$70	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> A Taste of Louisiana Dinner (Thurs, June 7) @ \$60	\$ _____
EXHIBITOR REGISTRATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial & Federal Agencies (includes 1 full registration) \$600	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-profit & State Agencies (includes 1 full registration) \$450	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> AITC State Contact (must register) FREE	FREE
Total Amount Due:	\$ _____

Reasonable accommodations are available for persons with disabilities or special dietary needs. Please describe your request here:

METHOD OF PAYMENT

Check/Money Order (Payable to LA Foundation for AITC)
Sorry, no purchase orders

Visa
 Mastercard

Name & Billing Address of cardholder (if different from above)

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

TRAVELING WORKSHOPS

Select one only if you are registering for the full conference or the Friday single day only. See traveling workshop descriptions on opposite page. For a more detailed description of traveling workshops, visit the National AITC website at www.agclassroom.org

Included in the full conference registration and Friday single day registration is your choice of a traveling workshop. If you are registered for one of those options, select one of the five traveling workshops below. Also, you must indicate your 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices due to availability. All tours are subject to change.

_____ Traveling Workshop #1

_____ Traveling Workshop #2

_____ Traveling Workshop #3

_____ Traveling Workshop #4

_____ Traveling Workshop #5

Mail or fax completed registration form to:
LA Foundation for AITC
P.O. Box 95004
Baton Rouge, LA 70895-9004
Fax: 225.922.6229

Online registration available at www.agclassroom.org and www.aitcla.org

For questions, please contact Lynda Danos at 225.922.6503 or email lyndad@lfbf.org

For office use only	
Confirmation _____	Amt Recd _____
Date Recd _____	Registration _____
Batch _____	Check # _____
Cancel _____	Visa/Mc _____
Cash _____	Cancel _____