At the end of the school year I try to envision how I will get my work done over the summer, prepare for the school year, attend some professional development activities, and find time to recharge the batteries. Every summer I have been successful in finding that balance but this summer all of that was changed. My family had to go through something that has always been in the back of our minds for the last 10 years, a liver transplant for my daughter. Most of my summer has been spent either at Barbara Bush Children’s Hospital in Portland or Children’s Hospital in Boston. So I wasn’t able to achieve all of my goals but I was still able to make some dents.

In the end, my daughter has a donated liver and is starting on the road to recovery while I have been spending most of my time in hospitals that didn’t stop my professional development opportunities. I was able to tap into some of the Youtube videos from ISTE14, follow along on #edchat and other Twitter discussions, and using RSS feeds and apps like Zite I could attempt to keep up with news and articles in the forefront.

(Continued on page 11)
A Fond Farewell to David Patterson

By Jeff Mao

It is with great sadness that I pass along the news of David Patterson’s passing. David served the Department of Education and the Maine education community for many years including helping to pioneer the ATM video conferencing system and later AP4ALL.

David was 50 years old, a soccer coach, photographer, and blogger. He received his B.A. in Sports Studies from the University of Ulster in 1986, and his Master’s in Education from Lenoir-Rhyne University in Hickory, North Carolina in 1994. While coaching in Bangor, David was named Maine Soccer Coaches’ Coach of the year twice, and was awarded New England Coach of the Year in 2010. David worked with the Maine Department of Education as an Education Specialist working closely on the distance education program, AP4All.

People on the Move

Jeff Mao is leaving the DOE after ten years, headed for Common Sense Media. He sent the following for ACTEM’s membership:

“Hi all,

As promised, a brief note about where I’m going. As I noted, I’m moving on from the Department on good terms, and had it not been for this new opportunity, I would not have left.

Beginning in October, I will be working for Common Sense Media. This is the same organization that has supported...

ACTEM Board Members having some fun...

On August 5th and 6th this summer, the board members of ACTEM met with the Executive Director Gary Lanoie, and reported on the various activities and finances of the fiscal year. Pictured below (L-R, front row) Dennis Kunces, Dennis Crow, David Bridges and Gwyneth Maguire; (L-R, back row) Rachel Guthrie, Mike Arsenault, Jaime Steward, and Deb White. Andrew Wallace did attend but was called away before Gary snapped this photo.
our work here with their Digital Citizenship curricula. Together, we will be building a new working group at the organization that will provide support to districts and states with the implementation of 1:1 programs. This will include creating a lot of content -- basically, this move will provide me the time to write the “Book of MLTI”. I hope that the finished work will be of benefit to both schools in Maine and elsewhere. Through Common Sense Media, we hope to provide both teacher professional development as well as direct consulting to education leaders in support of the implementation of 1:1 from conception to procurement, policy and implementation.

Fortunately, I’ll be staying put here in Maine, so my kids will continue to benefit from MLTI, and I’ll get to continue to shovel snow in the winter! Thanks, Jeff”

Kevin Perkins, new Director of Technology at RSU 57, Waterboro, Maine, replacing Bob Stackpole.

Noel Harroff is the new Technology Coordinator at Cape Elizabeth School District. Noel was the database facilitator there.

Zachary Schiller is now the Technology Manager of RSU 26 Orono Public Schools.

RSU#26, Orono Public Schools, has promoted Zach to the newly created position of Technology Manager. Zach has served the district as Technology Technician since October 2010. He graduated from UMaine in 2011 with a BS in Physics and is currently working on a Masters in Computer Science. Zack is looking forward to continuing to advance the technology at the schools as well as bring the three schools’ technology programs closer together to create a more cohesive technology plan for the district.

Sarah Glatz is the new Technology Integrator at Memorial Middle School in South Portland. She said, “I’m very excited to be working in my own community, doing what I already love doing, with Megan Welter and Andy Wallace. I’m also looking forward to the opportunity to more effectively impact Technology Integration by working in just one building, rather than seven.

I am a resident of SoPo, both of my own two children have come through South Portland Schools, I have been a Music Booster here for years, I did my teaching internship at SPHS, I have history with lots of people, I will...”

**ACTEM’S PD REIMBURSEMENT PROCESS**

Complete the online application, available at ACTEM’s website under Professional Development. The application will automatically be Emailed to Dennis Kunces (ACTEM’s Professional Development Administrator - dennis.kunces@gmail.com) and the ATEM Executive Director.

- Dennis will review application and give preliminary approval pending confirmation of membership
- Executive Director will confirm membership for final approval
- Applicant will complete the professional development activity
- Applicant will submit documentation (receipt/s and proof of completion) within 60 days of the completion date.
- Payment will be verified and submitted to ACTEM Executive Director.
- Executive Director will issue and mail reimbursement check to member.

Go to www.actem.org to submit your answer. All correct answers will be entered into a drawing for a $25 L.L. Bean Gift Card. The deadline to submit answers is October 15, 2014.
belong to a single school’s staff, and it feels like home already.”

**Special Sessions for Administrators from Keynote Chris O’Neal**

Who are our students? How do we deal with those who haven’t experienced a life prior to mobile phones and Wi-Fi? Chris talks about how we overlay our great teaching skills and knowledge of pedagogy with students’ natural interest and technology skills for the best of both worlds. He’s offering two 3-hour sessions on Thursday and two one hour session on Friday. Thursdays first session: *Get Your Digital Life in Sync*, dives into some websites and apps for helping you bring a little more synchroni- zation and order to the digital side of your life. Technology has helped us in so many ways, but many of us still struggle to keep things in order, and not get overwhelmed with the onslaught of information and connectivity.

The second session, (for principals and other school leaders) *Rethinking Staff Meetings* asks “Do you lead by example?” Teachers and other instructional staff look to their leaders to demonstrate a commitment to technology and ongoing instructional improvement through efforts that make sense for your role. Explore some techniques and tools that are easily structured into staff meetings, departmental meetings.

On Friday in the first 1-hour session focuses on *Website-Management Overload* – We’ve used many tools over the years, let’s share our favorite website-management strategies! We’ll look at Diigo, Pocket, Evernote, and others.

Chris’s second session on Friday will cover *Alternatives to Powerpoint* – Do slideshows still have a place in the classroom? Sometimes, they do! In this session, he’ll show a few other methods for using “visual backgrounds” to help share information.

**Renew/Register Online!**

ACTEM’s membership year runs from July 1 - June 30, which means that your membership was up for renewal as of July 1st, this year. That applies to individual and institutional (formerly district) memberships, dues are the same as last year:

- **Individual Membership:** $20
- **Institutional Membership:** $50
- **Small Institution Membership:** $25

Required for districts to participate in our purchasing consortium

Memberships can be renewed online at http://actem.wildapricot.org/join. This website can also be accessed under the Membership.
section ACTEM’s website.

Now you can pay online for memberships and events (workshops and the conference) with PayPal and credit cards. If you have not done so already, renew now for 2014-15 to take advantage of the many benefits ACTEM offers it’s members.

You can do a Favor for ACTEM!

As a nonprofit organization, ACTEM is qualified to have donations from Amazon Smile. You shop the same way as usual at Amazon, with one change: you choose a nonprofit to donate to and setup your Amazon account to do that automatically. Amazon Smile does not cost you a penny but .5% of your purchase (most items qualify) is donated to ACTEM. You pay the same price, Amazon makes the donation on your behalf.

So, please go to smile.amazon.com and sign up to have ACTEM as your charitable organization and then shop on! It’s that easy! Thank you for supporting us and allowing us to keep supporting all of you.

Idea from the Trenches…

One of the many things we have learned through the MLTI program and other educational technology initiatives is that administrative support matters. Does your administration know about ACTEM? Are they up on current technology issues?

One technology director in Maine

Adobe Creative Cloud for Education

Creative Cloud gives students, educators and staff access to the world’s best creative apps for design, web, video, and photography, all right on the desktop along with seamless ways to share and collaborate. Only Creative Cloud offers all the essential tools to help students achieve their full creative potential.

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1. DEVICE LICENSING - is ideal for your classrooms, labs, and training environments because it’s licensing for each computer rather than each user, so multiple students can use the same application on a single computer. Device User Licenses are assigned to a specific computer and can be reassigned, if necessary, to a different computer.

2. NAMED-USER LICENSING - is for individuals on their institutional computers, and it includes access to online services and «Home-Use» rights. Named User Licenses are assigned to an individual, and are tied to a specific Adobe ID.

Visit www.adobe.com for a PDF flyer from Adobe with more information about the two licensing options (Named-User and Device) along with details about what is included with these options.

Additionally you have the choice of the complete set of Creative Cloud applications or just a single App option.

ACTEM Pricing for Adobe CC for Education. NOTE: For single App licensing you will need to specify the app when ordering.

Adobe announced just recently a 2-year price lock on the pricing for Adobe CC for Education. NOTE: ACTEM still is offering Adobe CS6 perpetual licensing at this time. These licenses will be offered as long as Adobe makes them available. We are being told these will eventually be eliminated from the price list and are not sure how much longer the perpetual licenses will be available.

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In accordance with ACTEM’s mission, members may apply for assistance in the form of reimbursement on qualifying technology professional development opportunities.

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ACTEM Officers

- Michael Richards, President
- David Bridges, Vice President
- Deborah White, Recording Secretary
- Andrew Wallace, Treasurer

ACTEM Board

- Michael Arsenault, SIG Technology Integrators
- Dennis Crowe, NEISTE
- Rachel Guthrie, Newsletter Editor
- Dennis Kunces, Professional Development
- Gwyneth Maguire, Digital Presence, Social Media Manager, Conference Co-Chair
- Crystal Priest, Conference Co-Chair
- Jaime Stewart, Co-Chair Educator of the Year

STAFF

- Gary Lanoie, Executive Director & Business Manager
ACTEM had a very successful year in 2013-14 and ended the year with a profit. We can probably attribute this profit to the successful memory and SSD group buy in 2013 plus our expanded product offerings.

FY 2013-14 Financial Summary

- Total Income: $1,217,654
- Total Cost of Goods Sold: $964,123
- Total Other Expenses: $231,304
- Net Income: $22,227

The Maine Community Foundation Fund
Maine Community Foundation works with nonprofit organizations like ACTEM and provides professional investment management services.

FY 2013-14 was a good year for ACTEM in the MCF fund with dividends, interest earned and gains coming in at over $21,000.

ACTEM Technology Conference and will be held on October 9th & 10th, 2014, save the date!
Are We Shifting Too Much Focus to STEM?

**YES**

Larry Edmonds

We need to improve our global economic standing in STEM areas. You’ll get no argument from me on that. Our laser focus on providing more STEM courses, however, might be blinding us to the fact that many students lack the crucial ability to put to use their STEM because they are not psychologically or socially prepared to participate in a global, collaborative economy.

We see students preparing to graduate who possess poor interpersonal communication skills, have no leadership ability, and demonstrate no sensitivity to gender issues or ethnic diversity. These are vital skills for success in the digital age workplace. Unfortunately, an increased focus on STEM in our schools is not giving students the skills they need to effectively navigate their way through a job interview, lead a self-directed work team, or accept and collaborate with people who are not just like them.

Diversity, communication, and leadership skills are critical in today’s global village. We have the technological ability to reach people in almost all regions of the world. But we can’t count on that technology to ensure students will be able to effectively communicate with those who have disparate cultural norms and beliefs.

STEM education is important, but we must teach those subjects alongside, not in place of, the behavioral sciences, arts and humanities, and interpersonal and leadership skills. A well-rounded human being is better suited to today’s world than a person who knows one thing very well but cannot communicate effectively with others, appreciate the arts, or lead others to success. A graduate has to get the job (through effective interview skills) in which s/he will lead a diverse team (using interpersonal and leadership skills coupled with intercultural sensitivity) in order to produce results for an employer.

This means that neither STEM nor the humanities alone can be the answer. We need to share funding across these crucial disciplines to create a teaching mélange in which STEM

**NO**

Cindy Moss

What we do know is that today’s students will need to be problem solvers and lifelong learners. A strong focus on STEM education is a critical ingredient for meeting this need.

STEM is not a curriculum or a set of resources. STEM is a culture of teaching and learning that gives students the opportunity to engage in solving real-world problems while addressing the Common Core literacy and mathematical practice standards. Our challenge in K–12 education is to maintain, encourage, and empower natural human curiosity and creativity while helping students develop the skills they will need in the workplaces of the future. Students in classes using STEM strategies are more engaged, have higher test scores, and are able to build the types of skills they will need for long-term success.

While I was the director of STEM at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools in North Carolina, we employed a number of strategies to create an effective STEM program. We used engaging real-world problems, digital content, and professional development/coaching to empower our teachers. We connected with local businesses to use regional scenarios in our classrooms and create a vision that would contribute to economic development. Perhaps most important, we changed our district’s culture to focus on STEM education.

The results of these efforts speak for themselves. Our fifth and eighth grade science scores rose 44 points in three years, while state achievement scores increased only 7 points. Our third through eighth grade math achievement scores skyrocketed 33 points, compared to the state-score increase of 5 points.

But the greatest accomplishment we attribute to STEM education is instilling in our students a strong spirit of lifelong learning. We are preparing them to change, adapt, and problem solve, which will ready them to face a future whose opportunities are not yet clear.
skills are supplemented by citizenship, effective communication, and practical life skills.

In other words, as always, one basket does not fit all the eggs. Today’s students certainly need STEM courses to understand the physical and theoretical world, but they also need courses that will help them to better understand the people they will meet along the road of life. We must create funding schemata that will allow our students to succeed in the world, not just in the laboratory or the classroom.

—Larry Edmonds is a full-time lecturer and doctoral student at Arizona State University. He is also a member of ISTE, the World Communication Association, and the International Leadership Association.

Our national approach to STEM education should not be based on fears that we are doomed to be overtaken technologically by other nations. Rather, our choices as educators should be driven by what we know is right for our children. Students today need authentic learning environments that mirror what’s going on outside the classroom. In our increasingly global society, a STEM education and the skills it develops will propel today’s students to succeed in college, careers, and citizenship. That is why we should spend more time on STEM.

—Cindy Moss, director of global STEM initiatives for Discovery Education, is charged with supporting school districts in their work to develop and deploy student initiatives to drive science, technology, engineering, and math achievement nationwide.
What’s a Bus Moose?

On a bus trip with a group as active and excitable as the ACTEM membership, it’s important to make sure there is someone who’s in charge of keeping us all organized and ready for fun. Making sure that things run smoothly and that everyone has what they need is a big job, a job for an experienced bus moose.

This year, Dennis Crow has generously offered his skills to fill this need. He’s got the experience and the antlers...stay posted for updates about what you can look forward to on the bus trip to ISTE 2015!

Registration now Open for Leverage Learning 2014: iPads in the Primary Grades

Is your district implementing iPad in the primary grades? Are you part of a team working to make sure the most is made of the powerful opportunities represented by that iPad implementation?

Designed to continue the growth of their high quality Leveraging Learning Institute series, Auburn’s planning committee for their 4th “iPad in the Primary Grades” event have been busy. They have announced that the LL2014 theme is “Reach for the Top - iPad as a Tool for Creation,” because they believe that, “From leadership to learners - we all need to do something with what we have learned. Creation is at the top of Bloom’s Taxonomy, and when we create, we own the knowledge used.”

Designed once again for team participation, the dates for LL2014 have been set as Wednesday November 12 through Friday November 14, 2014. Registration will open on Thursday, August 21st. To keep updated on LL2014’s planning progress, please visit http://institute2014.auburnschl.edu

Longer Sessions at the ACTEM Conference (cont. from page 1)

On Thursday morning consider Transform Learning with an Authentic Audience with Eric Patnoudes & Chad Stevens, and in the afternoon you can join Barbara Greenstone for iPads for Assessment, or Accessibility Features of Mac OSX & Apple Mobile Devices with Sarah Herlinger.

On Friday morning, you can Re-View your course through the iTunes U lens with Mia Morrison & Nick Miller, and in the afternoon, Cheryl Oakes and Beth Goodwin will help to Level the Playing Field for All Learners, while Alice Barr presents on The Transparent Classroom and Douglas Parcher gets into Augmented Reality = HyperTeaching-Learning.

On the Road again! June 28 2015, ACTEM is hitting the road. ISTE, the world’s premier education technology conference, is in Philadelphia in the summer of 2015, and ACTEM is sponsoring a bus to take Maine’s premier geeks down to Philadelphia!

The ISTE conference is June 28-July1st, the bus will leave from the Portland area on Saturday June 27th at 9AM and will return July 1st. Tickets to ride the bus are $50 and includes a t-shirt, snacks, (nonalcoholic) drinks, Wi-Fi, and power. We also guarantee fun and shenanigans.

With ISTE being above the Mason-Dixon line and fun/affordable bus, it’s a great chance to attend one of the best professional development opportunities in technology education in the world. Registration will open soon, stay tuned.
Robot gives Students a Virtual Presence

By Gwyneth Maguire,

We all know technology can keep you connected, but what do you think of robots in the classroom? During the last weeks of school, Noble Middle School (MSAD#60) had the chance to find out how technology can keep a student connected not just academically but also socially.

Knowing that a student in her 6th grade ELA class was slated to undergo spinal surgery, Melanie Stevens, sat down with me to work out how to provide an interactive virtual classroom experience for her student using our technology (we are a 1:1 school with Chromebooks). First, we thought about G+ but after a brief chat with others in the tech department I learned about the VGo (learn more about VGo) robot which lead me to Grahamtastic Connection. This AWESOME organization provides technology to ill children to keep students connected and enable them to be a real presence in their classes. Through the VGo robot, the student was able to attend class and be part of the school environment. The VGo robot uses an app which provides remote control of robot movement and the video display. It makes it possible for the student to ask questions and move about the class/school just like always. Our experience wasn’t without a few hiccups (short wifi loss when moving from floor to floor) but the ease of use, integration into our school day and the smiling face of the student is proof that staying connected to peers and the school environment with the help of a robot is something we all should consider.

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Message from the President

(Continued from cover)

around technology and education. Having a strong personal learning network and ubiquitous access to WiFi has allowed my professional development opportunities to occur in a 24/7, on-demand style instead of taking a class or finding a workshop in the area. Being able to adapt to new circumstances but still learning new content is a goal in being a life longer learner that we need to instill in our students.

As my daughter is focusing on moving forward so is ACTEM. ACTEM has some opportunities coming up that might be of interest to you. The ACTEM conference is now officially two days with two days of keynotes. The organization is excited to have Richard Byrne of FreeTech4Teachers.com speaking on Thursday and on Friday ACTEM has Chris O’Neal. Chris offers professional development opportunities around the world including work with ISTE and U.S. State Educational Technology Directors Association. Continuing the trend started last year, we have an ending keynote featuring Dan Ryder and Jeff Bailey (aka The Wicked Decent guys). I am really excited about this change and how it re-shapes the conference.

In February, ACTEM will continue offering a mini-conference at South Portland High School and Hamden Academy. The dates are going to be 17th with Snow Day on 18th for South Portland and 19th with Snow Day on 20th for Hampden. The mini-conference and their 3 hour sessions gives people a great opportunity to pick up, learn, and practice new knowledge and skills without the pressure of writing sub plans or worrying about students getting behind. We hope to continue this progression with two sites this year with more information shortly after ACTEM14.

At the end of the school year, ACTEM will be rolling out the bus with a trip to Philly for ISTE15 and some cheesesteaks. The ISTE conference is the largest technology in education conference. Attendance at this year’s conference was over 16,000 people. This is a great chance to meet new people, put faces to names, and learn new material for the upcoming school year. The details are still being worked and will be available right around the conference in October.

As we move forward with new opportunities, I wish everyone a successful 14-15 school year. I know there are going to be a lot of changes but I’m walking in to the school year with new optimism and I hope you will be, as well.
Upcoming Events

ACTEM 2014 Education Technology Conference
Rebooted & Reimagined
Oct. 9-10, 2014
Augusta Civic Center
Details of keynotes and workshop sessions Online Conference Registration Form at actem.org

MassCUE/M.A.S.S. 2014

Vermont Fest 2014
Vermont’s Premier Education Technology Conference
November 5 - 7 at the Killington Grand Resort
https://sites.google.com/a/vitallearn.org/vermontfest2014/

LL2014 - Leveraging Learning: iPad in the Primary Grades
November 12 -14, 2014 – Auburn, ME Hilton Garden Inn Auburn Riverwatch

2014 Christa McAuliffe Technology Conference
December 2-4, 2014
Radisson Hotel, Manchester, NH
http://nhcmtc.org

ACTEM Mini-Conference South
Feb. 17, 2015 – South Portland High School

ACTEM Mini-Conference North
Feb. 19, 2015 – Hampden Academy

ISTE 2015 Philadelphia
June 28 – July 1, 2015
https://www.isteconference.org/2015/

ACTEM 16GB Flash Drives only $12.50 each plus shipping. Contact the ACTEM office at 207-222-4353 or glanoie@actem.org to order.