

# RE-SEED



Retirees  
Enhancing  
Science  
Education through  
Experiments and  
Demonstrations

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## RE-SEED Newsletter - Fall 2005

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### **Volunteers in Alabama, California & New York**

Twelve scientists and eight science teacher specialists participated in the RE-SEED program that took place in September 2005 at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. The program was hosted by the Alabama Math, Science and Technology Education Coalition (AMSTEC) with a grant from NASA.

Fifteen retired engineers and scientists took part in a one-week RE-SEED training program at Synopsys in Mountain View, California in January 2005. The program was hosted by Partnership for Student Success in Science (PS<sup>3</sup>), a five-year regional teacher professional development project in science that is funded by the National Science Foundation. The House Foundation recently awarded a grant to the RE-SEED to run training programs in the area for the next two years. These programs will be hosted by the Santa Clara County Office of Education with help from the PS<sup>3</sup>.

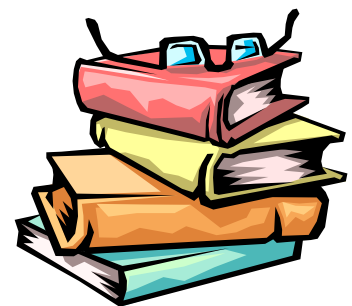
The Rockland County Public School District in West Nyak, New York hosted a RE-SEED training program in November 2004 in which 7 engineers and scientists were trained. Most are still volunteering and plans are being made to hold a second training in the area.

*The national expansion of RE-SEED has been supported in part by the IEEE Life Members Committee since 1997.*

### **RE-SEED is Model Program at Washington, DC Conference**

The Points of Light Foundation invited RE-SEED to be one of four model programs at the 50+ Initiative session at their Annual National Volunteer & Service Conference in Washington, DC in August 2005. The session was attended by close to 100 people, many of them managers of Points of Light Volunteer Centers around the country. The panelist included the Dr. Scott Nystrom, Executive Director of the White House Conference on Aging and Dr. Jay Winsten from the Harvard School of Public Health/MetLife Foundation Initiative on Retirement and Civic Engagement.

The 50+ Initiative focuses on building the expertise and capacity of individuals and programs to develop high-impact and rewarding volunteer opportunities for people over the age of 50. The Points of Light Foundation, which began in 1990, engages and mobilizes millions of volunteers who help solve serious social problems in thousands of communities.



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*RE-SEED is a Northeastern University program that prepares individuals with science backgrounds to work as volunteers, providing in-classroom support to middle school science teachers with teaching the physical sciences. For more information, please visit [www.reseed.neu.edu](http://www.reseed.neu.edu) or call us at 617-373-5860.*

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## **Boston Workshops To Begin in November**

The next Boston RE-SEED Workshops are scheduled to begin in November 2005. There will be an informational meeting on Monday, November 21 in 321 Churchill Hall. Please contact us at [d.weedon@neu.edu](mailto:d.weedon@neu.edu) or 617-373-5860 to let us know if you have a friend or colleague who might be interested in joining the program.

## **Boston Science Partnership Summer Courses**

This past summer, the Boston Science Partnership, the five-year \$12.5M National Science Foundation (NSF) Math Science Partnership program, which Christos Zahopoulos directs, successfully ran six content courses for Boston Public School (BPS) teachers at Northeastern University and University of Massachusetts, Boston. These courses were contextualized to the BPS curriculum. Two of them were taught at Northeastern: Physics I (Forces, Energy and Motion) taught by Professor Zahopoulos and Engineering I (From Science to Engineering: Pre-Engineering Design Experience) taught by Professor Yiannis Levendis. Professor Emeritus Gene Saletan and RE-SEED Instructor Larry McGrail, co-taught the Physics courses with Zahopoulos. These courses were co-taught by BPS teachers. The four other courses taught at University of Massachusetts Boston included: Earth Science I, Biology I, Biology II and Chemistry I.

Founded in 2004, the Boston Science Partnership aims to raise achievement in science among all BPS students and to significantly enhance the quality of science teaching in BPS and its partner universities. The Boston Science Partnership is one of five Math Science Partnership programs that NSF funded in 2004 with 136 institutions applying for this prestigious grant.

## **Communities with RE-SEED Volunteers**

There are RE-SEED volunteers in 31 communities in Massachusetts, and 1 community in both New Hampshire and Rhode Island.

RE-SEED volunteers also help in districts in California, Maine, Virginia, Maryland, New York, and Alabama.



In Massachusetts, there are larger numbers of volunteers in 4 districts. In Lowell, there are 10 volunteers going into 5 of the 9 schools with grades 6-9. In Boston, there are 9 volunteers working in 7 of the 19 middle schools. We also have another 3 volunteers who we are in the process of placing in Boston schools and another 7 volunteers who are volunteering at the Boston Latin School Mentor program, some in addition to their regular school assignment. In Worcester, there are 7 volunteers working in 4 of the 40 schools with grades 6-8. In Methuen, there are 4 volunteers ready to begin volunteering in the 5 schools with grades 6-8 this fall.

The other communities in Massachusetts with active RE-SEED volunteers are: Arlington, Avon, Beverly, Cambridge, Concord, Framingham, Groton, Haverhill, Hopedale, Hopkinton, Lawrence, Lenox, Lincoln, Marlborough, Mashpee, Millis, Milton, Needham, Natick, Norwood, Quincy, Sudbury, Springfield, Wilmington, Winthrop, Winchester, and Woburn. There are also RE-SEED volunteers in Nashua, New Hampshire and Pawtucket, Rhode Island. Please let us know if you are volunteering in a community that we did not mention.

We want to take this opportunity to thank all of the volunteers for the exceptional work you are doing. Your impact on students may reach much farther than you might be able to imagine.

As always, we appreciate you recommending RE-SEED to your friends and colleagues and welcome you to bring interested individuals to our annual meeting. Best of luck with the upcoming school year.

## Special Recognition

Many of the RE-SEED volunteers are celebrated by their teachers and students for their dedication and the important contributions to the science education. We like to hear about all of them---from letters from students to awards ceremonies--so please let us know if your students, teachers or schools have done something special to recognize your work. Here are a few recent instances where RE-SEED volunteers were publicly thanked for their work with students.



▶▶ Charles Kitchen who is going into his 5th year at the Wilmington Middle School was honored in a ceremony with all 380 of the 7th grade students he teaches. Last year, Charles also did two lessons (Electricity and Astronomy) with the 4th grade of West and the North Intermediate Schools in Wilmington.

It was very obvious at the awards ceremony how appreciative the teachers and students were of Charles. In a letter to us, the teachers wrote, "Every year during our end of the year awards ceremony, we try to recognize and show our gratitude to Mr. Kitchin for all his efforts, as they are many...Mr. Kitchin has become an integral part of our system." Charles is working full-time at Analog Devices, Inc. in Wilmington where the company allows him to take a day each week to teach in

the Wilmington Public Schools. Mr. Raymond Stata, the chairman of Analog Devices, has been sponsor of RE-SEED for the past five years.

▶▶ Constance Del Gizzi won the Governors (Massachusetts) Points of Light Award in March 2005 for her work with the 6th graders at the Butler Elementary School in Avon. Constance is going into her third year this school working with 3 science classes. She was nominated for the award by Jennifer Ceven, the teacher she works with at Butler.



## RE-SEED Co-Founder, Alan Cromer, Passes Away

Professor Alan Cromer, one of the founders of the RE-SEED program, passed away over Labor Day weekend after a long illness. He co-founded RE-SEED, together with Professors Christos Zahopoulos and Michael Silivitch with help from Frank Madden, a retired engineer and executive from Itek. Alan's knowledge and views of the field of K-12 science education prompted many lively discussions among the RE-SEED volunteers and his involvement in their training has been greatly missed since he became ill seven years ago. Alan was also intensely involved in the SEED program, which was an inquiry-based science/mathematics program with a focus on the physical sciences for 6th-10th grade science teachers. Along with Christos Zahopoulos, Alan taught hundreds of Massachusetts science teachers who participated in SEED over a ten year period. He was very proud of his work with the RE-SEED and SEED programs. He co-authored the Project SEED Sourcebook with Christos Zahopoulos and wrote numerous other books and articles in the field of K-12 science education.





**M**ARK YOUR CALENDARS - RE-SEED's Annual Meeting will take place on Tuesday, December 13 at the Raytheon Amphitheater in the Egan Research Center at Northeastern University. We will be sending out invitations in November. If you have an idea for a session topic at the meeting, please contact us at [d.weedon@neu.edu](mailto:d.weedon@neu.edu) or 617-373-5860.



**V**OLUNTEER ACTIVITIES - Please see the enclosed sheet for some of the volunteer opportunities available. These opportunities are also posted on our website at ([reseed.neu.edu](http://reseed.neu.edu)). We receive information about many kinds of volunteer and training opportunities throughout the year, so please check our site often.



**S**HARING ACTIVITIES - Please let us know if you have a classroom activity that you would like us to share with other volunteers. We will post these activities on our website ([reseed.neu.edu](http://reseed.neu.edu)). Please send them in electronic format to [d.weedon@neu.edu](mailto:d.weedon@neu.edu) with a title.

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**Project RE-SEED**  
**Northeastern University**  
**716 Columbus Ave., Suite 378**  
**Boston, MA 02120**