



## SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING AMBASSADORS NEWSLETTER – February 2008

### NEWS

Welcome to the February newsletter for Ambassadors. Cannot believe it is the middle of February already – we'll be at the summer before we know it!

The Science and Engineering Ambassador program continues to grow and STEMNET have given a special award to the 18,000<sup>th</sup> SEA from WM Kellog in Greenford, who registered in December. We have 830 SEAS in the West of Scotland now and would like to get to 1000 by the end of the school term in June. Let's get active!

The Annual SEAS Awards Nominations have been published by STEMNET and I am delighted to say that one of our Ambassadors, Dr Rebecca Sowden, has been nominated for an Award for her work as a SEA. Only 11 Ambassadors from the whole of the UK are invited to attend the Awards ceremony in London in March and we are very pleased that Rebecca and teacher Jess Cooke, from Lenzie Academy, will go to represent Setpoint Scotland West. Well done to Rebecca! Last year Andy Stewart from Rolls-Royce in East Kilbride was presented with the Support and Development Award so fingers crossed Rebecca wins an award for her sterling work.

### SEAS and Teachers Event - Helping you to bridge the gap in STEM



By now you should have received your invitation to the **SEAS and Teachers Event on 4<sup>th</sup> March** at the University of Glasgow. This will be a great opportunity for you to meet other Ambassadors, STEM related teachers and a host of STEM organisations that can tell you about the projects and activities that they offer to schools. This will help you to see at first hand things that you can be involved in and maybe make you more comfortable in volunteering for an activity! This event is a launch pad for National Science and Engineering Week and quite a few of the STEM organisations present have events on during the week of 7<sup>th</sup> –16<sup>th</sup> March. You will be able to find out more about their events during our evening.

With your invitation we have asked for any change of address details and activity reporting and we will appreciate if you can take the time to update our records with this information. Ambassadors with out of date disclosures can renew them at this event – just remember to bring your proofs of ID.

If you have not received an invitation for some reason (we have had a few returned due to invalid postal addresses) please contact Alan Kerr in our office (tel 0141 330 6396) and he will send you one.

If you are working with a secondary school and the STEM related teacher has not received an invitation, please contact Alan and he will arrange to get in touch with the teacher.



## The IET/BCS Turing Prestige Lecture 2008

**"Target Earth", Dr James Martin**, 21 February 2008, 18:00 Lecture Theatre 1, Boyd Orr Building, University of Glasgow

In honour and recognition of Turing's contribution in the field of computing, the IET and BCS have established the Turing Lecture. On Thursday of this week (short notice I know!), Dr James Martin will present "Target Earth". Ambassadors are invited to attend this lecture.

"The problem of global warming is now widely known about. There are 12 megaproblems, like global warming, which must be urgently dealt with. All of these have potential solutions, but most of them are largely ignored. It is desirable to set targets so that we can measure the progression towards solutions. If we deal with these megaproblems in time, the 21st century could bring a magnificent future."

This lecture is free but you must register to pre-book a seat. For registration, call 01438 765468

## Glow Worms, Crime Scenes and Laser Beams

Two of our very active Ambassadors, Hannah Foreman and Katie Bolton, have developed a workshop as part of National Science and Engineering Week and they are looking for volunteers to help them deliver the this.

The event will run at the Glasgow Science Centre on **Sat 15<sup>th</sup> & Sun 16<sup>th</sup> March between 10:00am and 16:30pm**, with six sections relating to photonics and applications: 'The Spectrum and Waves', 'Communicating with light', 'Rays, Reflections and Polarisation', 'Lenses and Microscopes', 'The Eye' and 'Light in Nature'. There will also be a short demo of a luminol reaction, and a talk about photonics research every hour on the hour. The event is aimed at families – there should be something in it for everyone.

As a volunteer, no prior training is required. They plan to allocate two people to a section at a time and the types of things that will be demonstrated and discussed are very simple concepts (like the fact that white light is composed of the whole visible spectrum) so there'll be no need to prepare beforehand. There are volunteer guides that you are welcome to have a look at before the event to give you an idea of what's involved; the Glow Worms website is at: <http://glowworms2008.googlepages.com/>

As a volunteer, you are welcome to give as much or as little time as you like to the event, Hannah and Katie just ask that they know in advance so that they can make a rota.

If you would like to volunteer to take part in this event please contact me and I will pass your details on to the Ambassadors.

## St Thomas Aquinas Secondary, Glasgow – Geneticist required

I have had a request from the above school, based in the Jordanhill area, for a geneticist to promote this area of science to the school. They would like a relevant ambassador to:

Support classroom teaching by working with:

- A particular group of pupils (e.g. most able or those experiencing difficulties) over a period
- A different group of pupils each week/fortnight
- Several classes over a period
- A group of pupils on a specific curriculum project
- Briefing parents/teachers/governors
- Assistance with extra-curricular activities such as lunchtime or after-school science/engineering clubs

This help would require a burst of activity over a period of 2-3 weeks. If you are interested in helping out, please contact me and I will put you in touch with the school.

**SEAs update, Jan 2008**

**SETPOINT Scotland, Kelvin Building, University of Glasgow, G12 8QQ. Tel: 0141 330 5370.**

NB: You are receiving this mailing/email as we have your details on our SEAS database. We only use your details for SEAS administration and operations, they will not be shared with any third parties.

## Carrick Academy, Maybole, Ayrshire Glasgow – Career Talks

I have had a request from the above school to have Ambassadors give careers talk to encourage their S2, S4 and S5 pupils to understand that science subjects lead to an interesting career path. The science teacher feels that many of the pupils are unaware about the opportunities that science and engineering offer as well as the interest, travel etc. The teacher would very much like to change their attitudes.

Each year group will be tackled separately so if we have quite a few SEAS to volunteer for this school it will help spread the load between them. Times are fairly flexible to suit the Ambassadors.

If you are interested in talking to a group of pupils about your experiences please contact me and I will put you in touch with the teacher.

## Crookfur Primary, Newton Mearns – Flight talk

The P5 class at this school, on the south side of Glasgow, is currently undertaking a topic “How is flight possible”. They would like an Ambassador to visit the school and talk about flight (in any capacity). They would like to make this topic brought to real life and help the pupils understand more about mechanical flight.

Any Tuesday (11am-12noon) or any Thursday (1:45-3:00pm) would suit.

If you are interested in talking to a group of pupils about flight please contact me and I will put you in touch with the teacher.



**National Science and Engineering Week** (formerly National Science Week) is an opportunity for people of all ages, areas and organisations to take part in science, engineering and technology activities. It will be running from **7<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> March** across the country so look out for events that will be held to promote science to everyone, including schools and the general public.

National Science and Engineering Week is co-ordinated by the BA (British Association for the Advancement of Science) in partnership with the Engineering and Technology Board. It is funded by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

More information can be found at [www.the-ba.net](http://www.the-ba.net) and click on National Science and Engineering Week.

If you are interested in helping out with an event at NSEW please contact me and I will contact various organisations which are hosting events.

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## AMBASSADOR REQUESTS

Please see below schools that have requested Ambassadors. If you are able to help please contact me as soon as possible.

SCHOOLS REQUIRING AMBASSADORS	AREA	HELP REQUIRED
Primaries associated with Calderglen High- Halfmerke, Heatheryknowe, Hunter, Long Calderwood, Murray	South Lanarkshire	Help with K'Nex Classroom Challenges required in each of these primary schools
Holy Cross High School	Hamilton	Help with Advanced Higher Physics Investigations for 6 <sup>th</sup> year pupils – <b>this is an urgent request.</b>
Oxgang Primary	Kirkintilloch	Help with P7 Rocks and Materials subject. Also P3 Minibeasts project.
Crookfur Primary	Newton Mearns	Looking for Ambassadors to give talk on "Flight" to P5 class
Carrick Academy	Ayrshire	Looking for Ambassadors to give career talks to encourage S2, S4 and S5 to take up STEM careers
Cranstonhill Nursery	Glasgow	Introduction to KNEX for nursery children and their teachers
St Thomas Aquinas Secondary	Glasgow	Geneticist help required. Also help with Building Bridges project during April 08

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<b>EVENTS REQUIRING AMBASSADORS</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>HELP REQUIRED</b>
IET/BCS Turing Lecture, Glasgow University	21 <sup>st</sup> February	SEAS invited to attend lecture
SEAS and Teacher Event, Glasgow University	4 <sup>th</sup> March	SEAS invited to attend event
Institute of Physics – Lab in a Lorry See schools below:		3 – 4 Ambassadors a day required to help with experiments, see note above
Carrick Academy, South Ayrshire	12th March	Lab in a Lorry
Grange Academy, East Ayrshire	13th March	Lab in a Lorry
Ayr Academy, South Ayrshire	14th March	Lab in a Lorry
Doon Academy, East Ayrshire	18th March	Lab in a Lorry
Auchinleck Academy, East Ayrshire	19th March	Lab in a Lorry
Cumnock Academy, East Ayrshire	20th March	Lab in a Lorry
Glowworms, Crime Scenes and Laser Beams	15 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Help required for public event at Glasgow Science Centre
Telford 250 Challenge - ICE	Young Engineers Clubs in West of Scotland	Help pupils in the challenge of planning and building a sports venue within their own school
The Energy Institute 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2007	Glasgow University	Energy industry related ambassadors to give a short talk about their careers. Part of NSEW

## **INDUCTION TRAINING**

If you have not already undertaken your induction training, the next session will be run on **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2008 at 3:00pm** in the University of Glasgow. If you would like to register for this induction please email or call me and I will reserve a place for you. The training will last around 1.5 hours and will enable you to complete your disclosure form also.

Date of next training is 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 3pm

**If you wish to volunteer for any of the activities or schools listed please contact me as below.**

**Remember to keep looking at our website [www.setpointscotlandseas.org.uk](http://www.setpointscotlandseas.org.uk) for updated activities**

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