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Week of April 13, 2009

Table of Contents

- [Deadline is Nigh for 2010 National Conference Proposals](#)
- [Attention NSTA Student Members](#)
- [Would Young People Learn Science Better If It Were Packaged in a Video Game?](#)
- [Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Awards Web Seminar Series](#)
- [New Release Adds Another Title to "Uncovering Student Ideas in Science" Series](#)

Deadline is Nigh for 2010 National Conference Proposals

Only a few days remain to submit a proposal for the NSTA 2010 Philadelphia National Conference on Science Education, March 18–21, 2010. Share your teaching experience with our attendees. Visit the [online submission page](#) to submit your proposal for the Philadelphia conference. **The deadline is April 15, 2009.**

[\(back to top\)](#)

Attention NSTA Student Members

Did you know that Bank of America provides great rates to NSTA members on credit cards and other financial products? Learn about Bank of America [WorldPoints](#), and also see [more information](#) (PDF) about how to improve your financial acumen today!

[\(back to top\)](#)

Would Young People Learn Science Better If It Were Packaged in a Video Game?

That's the question at the heart of the *Selene* project. Named after the Greek lunar goddess, *Selene* challenges players to learn the major geologic processes scientists believe formed the modern moon. Players create their own moon and then pepper it with impact craters and flood it with lava. The game offers a great opportunity for students to learn about lunar geology while helping researchers study some key videogame design principles.

The game is designed for students between the ages of 13-18 and takes about an hour to complete. But more time can be spent checking out *Selene's* various resources about the moon. To play, participants must be enrolled by an adult recruiter to ensure parent or guardian consent for participation.



If you're an adult who'd like to help out, visit the *Selene* Web site and click on the Recruiter button. Recruiters help find players to play the game and take part in the study. Being a recruiter is simple and does not involve a lot of paperwork. The whole process involves getting oral consent from a parent or guardian, then forwarding *Selene* registration access to recruited players.

Selene: A Lunar Construction GaME was created through NASA by the Center for Educational Technologies® at Wheeling Jesuit University in Wheeling, W. Va., and its learning research continues through a National Science Foundation grant.

To learn more about the game and how you can play, visit selene.cet.edu. If you have questions about this project, please e-mail your inquiries to selene@cet.edu.

[\(back to top\)](#)

Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Awards Web Seminar Series

Join us on **Tuesday, April 14**, for the next web seminar focusing on the Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Awards program. Now in its 17th year, ExploraVision encourages K–12 students of all interest, skill, and ability levels to create and explore a vision of future technology by combining their imaginations with the tools of science. This Web Seminar will include information and resources that will help K–12 teachers integrate the ExploraVision program into next year's classroom. Presenters are ExploraVision Ambassadors, teachers who have sponsored regional and national winning teams and have had success in motivating and guiding multiple student teams in the past several years. During these live web seminars, presenters will share their ExploraVision experiences and answer questions live from participants. [Register today!](#)

[\(back to top\)](#)

New Release Adds Another Title to "Uncovering Student Ideas in Science" Series

[Uncovering Student Ideas in Science, Volume 4](#) offers 25 additional formative assessment probes to help reveal students' preconceptions of fundamental science concepts, bringing the total to 100 in the popular series by author Page Keeley. Teachers of grades K-12 will find short probes with grade-band specifics that provide easy-to-follow suggestions for addressing students' ideas by promoting learning through conceptual-change instruction. Volume 4 adds to the probes in physical, life, and Earth and space science with a new category called "unifying principles." Also covered is a discussion on balancing formative assessment with summative assessment.

Most useful are the "Teacher Notes," which appear after each probe and include instructions for administering the probe, descriptions of grade-level considerations, related ideas from the National Science Education Standards, additional research, and suggestions for instruction and assessment.

In the preface, the authors who have worked with teachers in professional development and enhancement initiatives say "increased teachers' use of the probes has led to profound changes in content knowledge, pedagogy, and beliefs about how students learn science." It's no wonder thousands of teachers have chosen to practice their profession using this series as a fundamental resource.

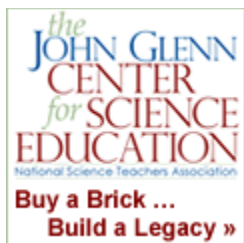
Visit the [NSTA online store](#) to view a sample chapter and to purchase.

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Visit the **NSTA Science Store** for an outstanding array of bestselling books and teaching resources. Receive 30% off the price of the April featured book, [Dig In: Hands-On Soil Investigations](#).

NSTA is offering more **Web Seminars** in the months ahead. Visit the website for more information and to register to attend these FREE professional development opportunities.



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