

## Motto

Learning  
to live  
in a  
technical  
world!

### State T-Shirt & Pin Design Request

ARE YOU AN ARTIST? DO YOU LIKE TO DESIGN THINGS?

Represent the Virginia TSA State Delegation and design a T-shirt and/or State Pin for Technosphere 2011!

The theme for this year is... "Snapshot of Innovation"

The requirements of the T-shirt design are the following:

- NO more than 2 color design
- Can be printed on the front and back of T-shirt
- Need to specify on the entry, what color shirt to print design on.

The requirements of the Pin Design are the following:

- Submitted in a 1"x1" color design (.png format)
- Design must showcase our state as well as TSA and must include "2011" or "11". Does not have to say Technosphere.
- Blank space (alpha value of 0) will not be part of the pin. If the pin design is not four sided, then define the physical borders by making all extra into blank space.

\* Please include chapter name, your name, your email address & advisor name on entry

\*\* Please submit your entries (hand or electronically drawn) to your Regional President at the Fall Rally or to the Virginia TSA email address (tsa@vasta.org) no later than February 10, 2010.

One of the submission may be chosen for the T-shirt and Pin design for the 2011 State Conference Technosphere and the chapter will be awarded free pins and recognized at the Technosphere awards program.

Virginia Scene Issue 01

### 2011 National TSA Conference



**Dallas, Texas**  
**Tuesday, June 21<sup>st</sup> to**  
**Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**Conference**  
**Theme:**  
**"Snapshot of Innovation"**

From Fairfax County

Over the summer, three **Madison High** students placed first in the Technology Education Student Association (TSA) national competition in the engineering research division. The team of Andrew Lipovsky, Lucas Potter, and Emma Steinhardt also finished in second place in international competition for their hexapod (six-legged) walking robot. A video of the robot in action is available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jkjshCqNAw>.

Contact Toss Cline at 703-319-2300 or [te-cline@fcps.edu](mailto:te-cline@fcps.edu).

Any Comments on the Scene? Contact Mr. Reporter at [kovacsiphone@gmail.com](mailto:kovacsiphone@gmail.com)

ISSUE

01

Quarterly  
Virginia TSA  
2010

# Virginia Scene

## The Mission

The Technology Student Association Fosters personal growth, leadership, and opportunities in technology, innovation, design, and engineering.

Members apply and integrate science, technology, engineering and mathematics concepts through co-curricular activities, competitive events and related programs.



### Unitus Racing has been crowned the 2010 WORLD CHAMPIONS for F1 in Schools!!!!!!!

The team is comprised of :

Amanda Clark, Southeast HS, FL– Team Manager  
Brandon Miranda, Southeast HS, FL –Design Engineer  
Niemann Pest, Patrick Henry High School –Design and Manufacturing Engineer (Note: Competing as James Madison MS)  
Mark Nenny, Southeast HS, FL– Manufacturing Engineer  
Tony Griffin, Southeast HS, FL– Graphic Designer  
Yatrck Solanki, Southeast HS, FL– Resource Manager

In addition to receiving the "Bernie Ecclestone World Champion Trophy, presented by Andrew Denford (chairman of F1 in Schools, Ltd) and Andrew Barret (Global VP Marketing Properties for LG)", the students also received:

- "Best Sponsorship and Marketing" presented by Virgin Racing and their driver, Lucas di Grassi
- Full Scholarships to the City University of London to study Automotive and Motorsport Engineering
- 22 inch LCD Monitors from Event Sponsor LG
- A private meet and greet with reigning Formula 1 World Champion Jenson Button
- A private tour of the F1 Paddock as the teams prepare for the "Singtel Singapore Grand Prix"

**Our team also placed in the top-3 in:**

"Best Identity", "Best Engineered Car", & "Best Portfolio"

**Event Statistics:**

200 Students, 25 Teams, & 18 Countries

**F1 in Schools World Wide Statistics:**

9,000,000 Students, over 500,000 Registered Teams & 33 Countries

## This issue:

Officer Bio's P.1-10

Nationals? P.11

National Finalists P.12

## 2010-2011 Executive Council



### President

I am a rising at Abingdon High School in the Southwestern Region. Along with being very active in the Technology Student Association, I enjoy swimming competitively with both school and a private club, playing soccer, and running cross-country. I am an Eagle Scout, Vigil member of the Order of the Arrow (a Service Society), and play active leadership roles in my local Boy Scout Troop 222 and co-ed Venture Crew 71. I founded both my middle school and high school TSA chapters, and remain a strong advocate for TSA and Technology Education curricula in my region.

Sincerely Yours,

Sincerely Yours,



### Vice President

My name is Mahir Dagra and I am your State Vice President for 2010-2011. I am a senior at Highland Springs High School in the South Central Region and President of my TSA chapter at Highland Springs. I look forward to serving Virginia as Vice President this year and hope to leave a lasting mark on our State's association. I am a member of National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society. I am glad to be a part of this year's Executive Council and will do my best to serve the

organization.

Sincerely Yours,

Mahir Dagra

Virginia TSA Vice President



### Secretary

Hello fellow Virginia TSA Members! The Secretary of our association is entrusted with many responsibilities vital to the continuing growth and prosperity of Virginia TSA. As your newly elected officer for this position, I, Luke Quigley, am grateful for the trust you have invested in me and assure you that you

will not be let down. This next year provides multiple opportunities for outreach and progression that can sprout new chapters, improve organization and efficiency, and better our commonwealth's TSA activities and Technosphere. Virginia TSA has a very strong Executive Council; emanating from our hard work and dedication, we expect to have a very successful year representing the views of you, our near 11,000 constituents. I look forward to serving Virginia TSA this coming year. If you have any suggestions or would like to know what your council is doing for you, don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely Yours,

Luke Quigley

Virginia TSA Secretary

Download the 2010-2011 Virginia TSA Addendum at:  
<http://www.virginiatsa.org/downloads/AddendumDraft091010.pdf>

# The Association

The Technology Student Association (TSA) is a national, non-profit organization for middle and high school students with a strong interest in technology. Since TSA was chartered in 1978 over 2,000,000 students have participated.



## Parliamentarian

Hello Virginia TSA! I am Mikey Stecher, your state parliamentarian. For those of you who don't know me so well, I am a senior at Highland Springs High School and I am a student in the Center for Engineering located there. This will be my fourth year in TSA, as well as my third year as a regional officer and my second as a state officer. In my free time, I swim year-round, am in numerous honor societies at school, and I am the lead singer/bassist in a garage band. I'm a pretty fun loving guy, and like meeting new people, so feel free to come up and

talk to me whenever. I hope to see a record number of fellow Virginia TSA members at States and Nationals this year, and I guess I'll see you there.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mikey Stecher  
Virginia TSA Parliamentarian



## Reporter

Hello Virginia TSA! I'm Joshua Kovacs, and I will be serving as your 2010-2011 Virginia TSA Reporter. I'm a senior at Colonial Forge High School, and take great pride in knowing that I'm able to help make a difference when it comes to technology education. This is my fourth year of TSA and my second year holding a state office. Apart from TSA I'm also an officer in my school's JROTC Battalion, and a coach for the policy debate team. If you would like anything added to the Virginia Scene please email me at kovacsiphone@gmail.com. I'm open to new ideas. I hope to see even more members at next year's Technosphere, and look

forward to seeing you there.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joshua Kovacs  
Virginia TSA Reporter



## Treasurer

Hello, Virginia TSA! My name is Grace Day, and I have been given the privilege to serve you all this year as the 2010-2011 Virginia TSA Treasurer. I will be a junior at Wilson Memorial High School in the Valley Region this school year, and it will be my third year as a Virginia TSA State Officer, which I am loving every minute of. When I'm not doing TSA work, I love hanging out with my friends, reading, running, and working. This semester I'll be attending the Shenandoah Valley Governor's School for the STEM program, and at my home school I was elected as the 2010-2011 WMHS SCA Secretary. I am very confident in this year's council, and I know that we will accomplish some very important things

that will surely move Virginia TSA forward. I personally plan on creating a more effective recycling program to be used at Technosphere, in order to help raise awareness about reducing your carbon footprint! This is sure to be a fantastic year, and I am very impatient to begin. If at any point you have any questions or suggestions on making Virginia TSA better, feel free to e-mail me at grace-day15@yahoo.com. I can't wait to see you all at various TSA events, and to once again serve you all as a Virginia TSA State Officer!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Grace Day  
Virginia TSA Treasurer



## Historian

Hello Virginia TSA! I'm Shruthi Shyamala and I am a freshman at Chantilly High School. At school, I am a very involved student and try to keep my grades up to remain an honor roll student, and enjoy participating in many extracurricular activities. Some of my favorite after-school programs I participate in, include Model United Nations, Debate, and, of course, TSA. As an academic student serving their responsibility, I have participated in the National Junior Honor Society and hopefully will be selected for the National Honor Society. My favorite sports are tennis and volleyball. In my free time, you can find me listening to music, watching movies, or acting, all of which I love. I also volunteer in many places during the summer

and sometimes during the school year (when I have time). I have volunteered at my neighbors' church, our neighborhood temple, and the senior residents' home. As a child I've lived in California and moved to many places, making me used to the introduction of new people and places. That probably explains why I love meeting new people and making new friends! So next time you see me, don't hesitate to talk to me, and thank you all so much as you have elected me as your 2010-2011 Virginia TSA State Historian!

Respectfully submitted,  
Shruthi Shyamala  
Virginia TSA Historian

# VEX Robotics

Encourage advisors and members in your state to get involved in the TSA VEX Robotics Competition this year! All teams will be playing the VEX game entitled *Round Up*.

To acquire the rules for *Round Up* and learn details about the competition, a group simply needs to register a VEX team and get started. Registered teams are eligible to complete in nation-wide VEX events. Click here and scroll down to view a current list of state's hosting this competition.

## Middle School and High School Level Competitions

Students can work individually or as a team in such areas as agriculture and biotechnology, website design, dragster design, flight challenge, film technology, CAD, system control, desktop publishing, extemporaneous speaking, electronic gaming, or scientific visualization.



### Sergeant-At-Arms

My name is Joshua Sayre, I attend Louisa County High School and I'm currently in the 9th grade. I am a member of the Blue Ridge Virtual Governors School at Louisa County High School. I have been a member of TSA for two years now and I currently hold the Local, Regional and State office for Sergeant at Arms. I am a Boy Scout in troop 184, I hold the Quartermaster position, and I am currently a Life Scout working towards my Eagle Scout degree. I am a member of the French club and am looking forward to traveling abroad over the summer.

After attending our National Conference in Denver 2009, I became very excited about what TSA was about, and this encouraged me to become more involved in TSA. I ran for Sergeant at Arms because I wanted to be part of the Virginia TSA leadership council and want to see changes in the program to help increase membership.

My goal while I'm in office, as stated above, is to increase membership in our local chapters. I will visit our local schools and talk to other peers about TSA. This could happen on club nights or during orientation at the local school. I will contact the technology teachers in schools that do not have a chapter and talk to them about starting a TSA chapter.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joshua Sayre  
Virginia TSA Sergeant At Arms



### Blue Ridge Regional President

Hello Virginia TSA! My name is Jill Pritts, a sophomore at Patrick Henry High School, and I'm very excited to be serving as your 2010-2011 Blue Ridge Region President. I have been involved with TSA for the past four years and have served as my chapter secretary for two years and chapter president for two years. With every year, I come to love this organization even more and realize the key role it has had on shaping me into the person I am today. As Regional President, I am eager to listen to every idea and suggestion so that every member in the Blue Ridge Region will have a voice on the Executive Council.

I have several plans for the year to increase communication within the region, increase membership, and encourage members to get involved with officer positions, which I am looking forward to putting into action. There will be a number of events held to help us come together as a region and reward you all for being such dedicated and hardworking members.

In addition to TSA, I am involved with my school's Key Club and play for my school's Varsity Girls Tennis Team. I am also a very avid environmentalist and enjoy volunteering around my town whenever I can.

During my free time, I enjoy reading, spending time with friends, baking, and attending art openings and concerts. I love going on adventures, meeting new people, and showing school spirit.

I look forward to taking on the responsibilities of my office and learning alongside of you all. If you have any questions or suggestions, feel free to contact me at any time at [jill.pritts.tsa@gmail.com](mailto:jill.pritts.tsa@gmail.com). Lastly, I would like to thank you for allowing me to serve with some of the most dedicated people I have ever had the pleasure of meeting. Here's to a great year.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jill Pritts  
Blue Ridge Region President



### Northern Regional President

Hello Virginia TSA! My name is Angela Roller and I would like to begin by congratulating all Virginia TSA members on a very successful year! I am very much looking forward to serving as Northern Region President and hope to perpetuate the success of Virginia TSA during my term in office.

As a rising junior at Oakton High School, I am a member of the cross country and track teams, a writing tutor, a member of the Model UN, FCA, Best Buddies, am co-founding a "5Ks for Charity" club. I have been a member of TSA for three years and started my chapter at Oakton High School and since I have learned an incredible amount about myself and TSA and hope to contribute what I have learned about leadership, creativity, and (of course) technology in serving as your Northern Region President. Just as I have been inspired by both members and advisors I have met since joining, I hope to promote leadership within

our organization.

This year, my goals are to heighten communication throughout the region and assist in increasing state-wide membership. To this end, I would like to initiate a web forum that will allow for inter-chapter communication and regional fundraising activity in an effort to provide more members in the region with funds and information necessary to attend our regional, state, and national conferences. I encourage Virginia TSA and the Northern Region to contact me with any suggestions or questions you have as I would love to see that your ideas are heard by our organization and I wish everyone luck on their competitions and further endeavors this year!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Angela Roller  
Northern Region President



### South Central Regional President

Hello Virginia TSA! My name is Tara Kennedy, and I am your newly elected South Central Regional President! I am currently a junior at Deep Run High School, and this is my fourth year in TSA. I started in eighth grade with Mr. Turner at Short Pump Middle School, and I am very glad that I did. Last year I was the South Central Regional Treasurer and my chapter's Vice President. Since joining, TSA has become a very important and significant part of my life. Aside from TSA, I enjoy horseback riding, being a camp counselor, socializing,

and cooking.

This year, I plan on increasing the membership within my region, as well as the activity at our Fall Rally and Regional, State, and National Conferences. I also would like to create a website specific for the South Central Region and organize and complete a community service project. In addition, I will represent my region at all meetings to the best of my ability. Good luck to all in competitions and I hope you enjoy TSA as much as I do!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Tara Kennedy  
South Central Regional President

## 2011 State Conference

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!  
Technosphere  
2011  
April 29 –  
May 1, 2011  
at the  
Westfields Marriott  
Washington  
Dulles  
14750  
Conference  
Center Drive,  
Chantilly, VA  
20151

## TSA Facts:

150,000  
Members

2,500  
Teachers  
& advisors

45%  
Female  
Representation

75%  
College  
Bound

35%  
minority  
Representation

48  
State  
delegations



### Southwestern Regional President

Hi! My name is Tess McNerlin. I am a freshman at Abingdon High School and am currently honored to be serving as the 2010-2011 Southwestern Virginia Regional TSA President. TSA is one of my many loves. Along with serving on the Virginia State Executive Council, I enjoy running for my school's varsity cross country and track teams, serving as a student leader and singing on the praise team at my church. I also enjoy playing violin, reading, playing tennis and basketball, spending time with friends and family, singing in the Abingdon High School chorus, and socializing with anyone and everyone. This is my third year in TSA and I have grown to love it more and more with each passing year. The action, thrill, competitiveness, learning, and countless memories made cannot be found anywhere else but TSA. I know that,

working along side my fellow Executive Council members, so much will be accomplished and TSA will continue to thrive. I am so excited to see what this year will bring!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Tess McNerlin  
Virginia TSA Southwestern Region President



### Tidewater Regional President

Hello members of the Virginia TSA. My name is Sabrina Pardus and I am the new Tidewater Regional President. I am currently a senior at Hickory High School in Chesapeake, VA, where I am also the vice-president of the chapter. This is my second year as a member in the TSA. After learning about this awesome program through my sponsor, Ms. Nakahara-Clark, and the past Tidewater Regional President, Yvette Pate, I wanted to play an active part in this program before

heading off to college the following year. I hope to use the experiences I gain throughout high school, to improve and expand the public knowledge of the TSA.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sabrina Pardus  
Virginia TSA Tidewater Region President



### Valley Regional President

Hello, I'm Sierra Swisher and I am currently the Valley Region President. I am a sophomore at WMHS. Ever since I joined TSA in the sixth grade it has been a huge part of my life. This year, I want to help make TSA a bigger part of every member's lives by getting them more involved in Virginia TSA. I believe our organization will continue to grow and move into the future with this increased involvement. Within my region I wish to reach out and help supply them with what they need to start a TSA chapter.

Outside of TSA I'm very involved in other things. I run cross country and indoor and outdoor track. I am also a member of the color guard in the Wilson Memorial Emerald Regiment. Even though I'm busy outside of school, I strive to maintain good grades and work hard in all my classes. Throughout my years in TSA I have grown into a better leader and I have gotten to know so many new people along the way. I'm so excited for this year and can't wait to see everyone at Technosphere 2011.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sierra Swisher  
Virginia TSA Valley Region President



### Immediate Past President

Hello, my name is Tyler Clay, and I have just recently completed my term as your Virginia TSA President and now serve as your 2010-2011 Immediate Past President. I am looking forward to an outstanding and very successful year. Virginia TSA means the world to me, and coming back to serve as Immediate Past President makes it so much better. I have enjoyed my past four years on the Executive Council and I am looking forward to the next year.

I will make it my goal this year to be at every Executive Council meeting, successfully promote and attend the Fourth Annual Leadership Academy, attend and promote the sensational State Leadership Conference, increase the membership in Virginia

TSA, and make the students very pleased by listening and taking ideas via email and/or in person. Being a part of the Virginia TSA Executive Council comes with a lot of responsibility. I will work to the best of my ability on every task and assignment given to the Executive Council and myself.

Lastly, I would like to say a few things about myself. I enjoy playing baseball and golf in my free time. I believe that I am a very outgoing person and like working on task that are given to me. I enjoy working with my fellow Executive Council members and hanging out with friends. I wish all of you the best of luck on your projects throughout the year and hope to see you at Technosphere 2011.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Tyler Clay  
Virginia TSA Immediate Past President

## Virginia TSA Promo- tional Video

The Virginia TSA promotional video is now available for download on the Virginia TSA website. Please download it at the following link: <http://www.virginiatsa.org/home/resources/publications>

## Recent Initiatives

Engineering Alliance – a program of classroom-level competitions and leadership development activities designed specifically for Project Lead The Way (PLTW) affiliated middle and high school pre-engineering instructional programs. This program is offered through a partnership of PLTW, TSA and SkillsUSA.



## What did Virginia TSA think of Nationals?

You asked, the Executive Council answered.

Competition. Leadership. Teamwork. Just a few of the aspects of the 2010 National TSA Conference that Virginia TSA Members experienced in Baltimore, Maryland. Virginia had one of the largest delegations at the conference and members participated fully in all the conference had to offer. Throughout the conference Virginia members competed in competitive events, attended the various meetings and educational seminars, actively campaigned for the three Virginia National Officer Candidates, and attended daily general sessions and business meetings. Virginia members also joined with other members from around the nation at the mixer, the leadership academy, and by celebrating, remembering, and fighting back at the Relay for Life event.

Competitive Events were the focal point of the conference as members from around the state competed in events ranging from CAD Engineering to

Global Manufacturing and Fashion Design. After checking out on Monday, members waited for a list of the top twelve finalists to be posted. 92 Virginia teams and members who made the finalist listings then participated in interviews, presentations, and challenges that would determine the top three competition placements. The last morning of the conference, the Annual Award Ceremony was held and among the 92 finalist teams and individuals, 28 placed top three in their competition.

The Leadership Academy this year was attended by half of the conference members and nearly all of the Virginia delegation. Members were divided into different tracks, among them being the middle school track, the high school track, officer track, and advisor track. Training in all of the groups focused on the "Five Practices for Exemplary Leaders" as defined in The

Student Leadership Challenge by James Kouzes and Barry Z. Posner. The five practices stressed included "Model the Way," "Inspire a Shared Vision," "Challenge the Process," "Enable Others to Act," and "Encourage the Heart." All participants of the academy received a copy of the book, an academy t-shirt, and tickets to the Orioles baseball game the following evening.

Evening activities including the mixer, leadership academy, baseball game, and Relay for Life event allowed for members from across the nation to meet and share ideas about TSA. As always, the national conference was an incredible experience for all Virginia members inside and outside of competition. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the 2011 National TSA Conference in Dallas Texas!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Angela Roller



## Virginia TSA Nationally recognized Schools

At the 2009-2010 National TSA Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, Virginia TSA members participated in many of the competitive events TSA has to offer. Members competed individually or as a team in areas ranging from Agriculture and Biotechnology to Electronic Gaming and Fashion Design. Whether members' strengths lay in graphic design and video production or CAD and Engineering, all competitors at the 2009-2010 National TSA Conference had the opportunity to compete against members of 48 other state delegations in their areas of interest.

Congratulations to all of the members from Virginia TSA for an extremely successful and exciting competition at Nationals this year. Over all, Virginia members placed in 53 of the 71 available competitions at the national level. In these competitions, 92 teams and individuals finalized; an increase from the 71 members and teams who finalized at last year's National Conference in Denver, Colorado. Of those who finalized in Baltimore, one-third also received a trophy for placing first, second, or third in their competition.

This year, National TSA has piloted a

program for returning judging feedback to members. Recently available online, competitive event scores have been posted on the National website for the following competitions: Radio Controlled Transportation (HS), Architectural Model (HS), Desktop Publishing (HS), System Control Technology (MS), Go Green Manufacturing (MS), and Prepared Speech (MS). If you participated in one of these competitions and have your conference ID, you can access your judging report form online.

## This Issues Q&A

**Q: How do I start a chapter?**

**A: All that is needed is a motivated teacher and an eager group of students. An expensive array of high-tech equipment is not necessary. Once you have 10 students to make a chapter, Go to [tsaweb.org](http://tsaweb.org) and click on Join TSA for more information.**



## Regional Spring Fair Dates

Blue Ridge Region  
March 5, 2011  
Pulaski Middle School

Northern Region  
March 5, 2011  
W.T. Woodson High School

South Central Region  
March 5, 2011  
Deep Run High School

Southwestern Region  
March 5, 2011  
E.B. Stanley Middle School

Tidewater Region  
March 5, 2011  
Ocean Lakes High School

Valley Region  
March 5, 2011  
Wilson Middle School

The registration portal will open December 1, 2010.