



## Trivia Challenge

Answer the question below correctly and you could be the proud winner of ATA gear!

**How many presidents has the ATA had since its founding in 1967?**

Last month's winner, selected at random from among the correct responses received, was retiree **Bonnie Glick**. She correctly identified **2019** as the year NY first allowed early voting. She will be the proud owner of ATA gear.

**Submit your answer to the above trivia question to [sfalk@acsdny.org](mailto:sfalk@acsdny.org) by December 17. The winner will be randomly selected from the correct submissions.**

# Your CTLE Questions Answered

Beginning July 1, 2016, New York State initiated new registration and continuing education requirements for teachers holding Professional and Permanent certificates. The gist of this was that all of those certificate-holders would have to register online through the TEACH system every five years, and that those with Professional certificates would have to log 100 NYSED-

approved continuing teacher and leader education (CTLE) hours. Now that this five years is up, here are some FAQs to help those required to keep abreast of the CTLE process. All information quoted is from NYSED's webpage.

*Who, exactly, needs to earn CTLE hours?*

Only those holding a:

- Professional certificate in the classroom teaching service
- Professional certificate in the educational leadership service (i.e., School Building Leader, School District Leader, and School District Business Leader)
- Teaching Assistant Level III certificate

If you only have an Initial or Permanent classroom

teaching certificate, or a certificate in a pps field, you are exempt.

*Is it always 100 hours, or does it change if I have more than one certificate, or am on leave?*

It is still 100 hours, no matter how many certificates you have, but if you are on leave, the required hours may be decreased. Basically, the requirement is broken down as 20 hours

of their CTLE clock hours to the Department for the re-registration process. However, their CTLE documentation must be available upon request by the Department." Keeping track of your CTLE hours is a good idea, but there is no particular form to fill out.

*What counts for CTLE hours?*

The short answer is that only activities from sponsors approved by NYSED count. If you take a fancy summer class out of state, the sponsor probably will not be on NYSED's approved list (found here: [http://](http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/resteachers/ctlesponsors.html)

[www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/resteachers/ctlesponsors.html](http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/resteachers/ctlesponsors.html)), but anything offered by the district, BOCES, or the Mid-Hudson Teacher Center will. In fact, activities like PLC meetings, and PD on conference days count, so you probably have the 100 hours covered just from those. Each June your principal should be giving you the number of those hours that you can enter into MyLearningPlan. Also, up to 30 hours can be logged per five years if you are a district-approved mentor to a new teacher, and if you

See "CTLE" on page 3

**Don't Forget To Re-Register!**  
**NYS law requires that all teachers re-register every five years in order to maintain their Professional or Permanent certificates, and that time is up.**  
**Make sure to go to <http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/teach/> by the end of the month prior to your birth month to re-register.**

per year (though you can complete the hours at any time during the five-year period), so if you are on leave for one year, you will only need to log 80 hours in that five-year period. This is not prorated for periods of less than a year though, so if you are on leave for only a few months, the 100 hour requirement is unchanged.

*How do I record my CTLE hours? How do I let State Ed know about them?*

In essence, you don't submit them to anyone, except to attest that the hours are complete when you re-register. "Educators will not send documentation

# ATA Improves Dental Plan

On November 4, the ATA's Welfare Trust Trustees met at the ATA Office. This year's Trustees are Mia Chong (UVMS), Steve Hertzog (AHS), Diana Judge (TRP), Ed Hotaling (retiree), ATA President Bob Maier, and chair Ron Higgins (retiree). They voted unanimously to improve dental payments for our members and their dependents. The dental schedule will in-

crease 20% starting January 1, 2022. Copies of the new dental schedule will be given to members of

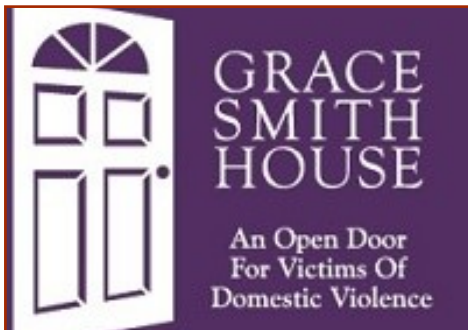
may receive remains at \$3000. The Personal Health yearly maximum remains \$425. The Vision maximum remains \$325. The year for Personal Health and Vision is October 1 to September 30.

***The dental schedule will increase 20% starting January 1, 2022.***

the Executive Council, Welfare Trustees and Welfare Trust building representatives. The yearly maximum each member and each dependent

I would put the new Dental Schedule on the ATA Website but we are not legally able to do so.  
-Ron Higgins  
Chairperson, ATA Welfare Trust

# Dress Down Day Raises \$1700 For Grace Smith House



Although the pandemic has altered many traditional charity drives and

events, the ATA's PR committee was still able to organize their annual dress-down day to benefit a local organization for the day before the Thanksgiving break.

This year, online donations were collected through GoFundMe, with the goal of raising \$1000 for Grace Smith House in Poughkeepsie. Established in 1981, Grace Smith House is a private not-for-profit domestic violence agency, which pro-

vides both residential and non-residential services to victims of domestic violence and their children, along with offering educational presentations to classrooms on topics like cyberbullying and teen dating.

The PR committee is proud to announce that their fund drive raised \$1700 for this worthy cause, surpassing their goal. Thank you to all who contributed.

# Your CTLE Questions, Answered

*Continued from page 2*  
achieve National Board Certification you have automatically met the 100 hour requirement for the registration period during which you have done that.

*I tried to re-register and attest to my CTLE hours, and it told me that I have another year. Did I do something wrong?*

No. Here is the response that I got over email from NYSED about this: "Teachers that registered during their birth month but after the 1st of the month may have received extra time

due to TEACH automatically giving at least five years to all who register. The registration period will always end during the birth month after at least five years. If someone registered during the middle of their birth month, then that would be less than five years, hence the extra months." When pressed for further explanation as to how it is fair that some people seem to be getting almost six years and others five, "Brandon" at OTIregistration@nysed.gov simply remarked that it's okay because they are not actually penalizing anyone who registers late anyway.

*What happens if I don't re-register, or complete my 100 CTLE hours?*

At this time, apparently nothing, but you should probably do it anyway since it is a state law. If you really did not log your 100 CTLE hours, there is an option for a conditional registration that gives you another year to complete them.

More questions? You can try <http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/resteachers/ctle.html>, or email me at [ataupdate@gmail.com](mailto:ataupdate@gmail.com).

-Sam Falk,  
ATA Communications Chair

# Adjunct Roles Reward ATA Members

Although working in the area of K-12 public education can be stressful and time consuming, many ATA members manage to find the energy to also work at yet another job in the educational field: that of adjunct professor.

With the abundance of local colleges, many adjunct opportunities abound, but what leads these ele-

mentary and secondary teachers to take on another job? Definitely not the money. ATA retiree Lynn Grainger, who is now an adjunct at Marist College, says of her new position, "It's keeping my mind busy, but it's certainly not lining my pockets."

UVMS special education

teacher Michele Simonetty is in her tenth year as an adjunct at Marist, teaching courses like Adolescent Development, and The Exceptional Child. Her motivation comes from the interest in what she is teaching, and

2021, but she shares a similar attitude toward the work, opining, "It is very rewarding! I am truly enjoying my experience. It does take up a lot of time but it is nice to support teachers just starting their careers."

Commenting on the time commitment, BES 4th grade teacher Brian Kimbark, who is an adjunct at Mount Saint Mary College, adds that he

*"I am truly enjoying my experience. It does take up a lot of time but it is nice to support teachers just starting their careers."*

**-OPS teacher Sucheta Baichwal on her SUNY New Paltz adjunct position**

whom she is teaching it to. "I enjoy the challenge of making the course applicable to all students," she explains, "All majors and minors can benefit from learning about disabilities. I love teaching future teachers and have been so fortunate to share my Arlington classroom with

enjoys overseeing graduate students working with their students in literacy, but that it has worked best for him to teach his college course over the summer. "I taught a class during the fall semester while I was teaching which was too busy and stressful," he says.

Grainger waited until she was about to retire to start her adjunct career. She is teaching a graduate course in elementary science and warns, "It's a tremendous amount of work for a relatively small amount of money, especially when you're teaching a course for the first time. There's a whole online system to learn to give assignments and to grade. I didn't find it intuitive at all, and I've spent hours learning it with Marist's support and on my own." Nevertheless, she enjoys her work and is looking forward to repeating the

them as observers and teaching assistants."

OPS ENL teacher Sucheta Baichwal is newer to the adjunct experience, starting at SUNY New Paltz in August

A highlight of Michele Simonetty's adjunct career was when a student asked her to be a guest coach for the Marist women's basketball team. Simonetty is pictured here with Tim Murray, Marist's Director of Athletics.



Photo courtesy of Michele Simonetty

course that she taught last spring since the prep should be significantly less.

Grainger heard about her position through Arlington’s Director of Math, Science, and Engineering, Dawn Galente, but most ATA members interviewed got their adjunct jobs through connections at the colleges. Kimbark was approached by a former professor about co-teaching a literacy practicum. Simonetty was recommended by a former mentor who had been working at Marist. For those who are looking to become adjuncts, and do not have an in at a local college, that shouldn’t be a problem. AHS social studies teacher Shaun Boyce, who is a long-time adjunct at Dutchess Community and Marist Colleges, recommends arranging an interview with the appropriate coordinator at the school you are considering. “They really need adjuncts, so you have a very good chance of picking up some work in the future,” he believes. Baichwal agrees with him, stating, “If you are interested, reach out to the local colleges, Dutchess Community College is always looking for adjuncts. It is a great way to share your experience and knowledge with others.”

Kimbark suggests trying to teach a summer course first to see if it is something you like. “Adjuncting after school was too stressful for me, so doing it over the summer can give you an idea of how much work is involved,” he says. He also cautions that, “Working with adults is very different from working with children. It seems obvious, but it is something that might be a big adjustment for someone who teaches younger children, like I do.”

And that difference is

***“It’s keeping my mind busy, but it’s certainly not lining my pockets.”***

**-ATA retiree Lynn Grainger on her Marist adjunct position**

what motivates Boyce, who has taught nine different college courses over many years. It is about being able to go more in-depth teaching subjects that are interesting to him. His experience at the college level is that, “You are given a lot of latitude regarding what you teach. At Marist I chose

my own textbooks and developed my own curriculum. Dutchess is more structured because adjuncts are given a department-generated syllabus that they are to follow. Even with that, you are still given a great deal of academic freedom.”

For those

who can make the time and want to expand their own learning while teaching others, becoming an adjunct professor is an option. The job generally requires a master’s degree and some teaching experience. While adjunct positions are not tenure-track, they may be covered by a union, as they are at Dutchess Community College and SUNY New Paltz.



Photo by Lynn Grainger

Last October, Lynn Grainger and her Marist graduate students hosted two Science Saturdays for elementary-aged children at Adriaance Library in Poughkeepsie.

## 2021 — 2022 ATA Officers

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### Second Vice-President

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UVMS — Jim DeBonis

AHS — John Filor

AHS — Noreen MillsMartin

# What's Going On?

*"What's Going on" is a monthly feature of The Educator. It highlights noteworthy accomplishments by ATA members. Do you know of a colleague who deserves recognition? Let The Educator know by emailing [sfalk@acsdny.org](mailto:sfalk@acsdny.org). We can't know what's going on at all of your schools without your help!*

Congratulations to the following ATA members for their contributions to the Arlington community and beyond.

### Arlington High

Art teacher Amanda Buhler had her work featured in a show called Transitions at the NY-SATA Region 7 Annual Member Show. The exhibit was held from October 11 to November 5 at the Bethany Arts Community in Ossining, NY.

### Arlington Phys. Ed.

Physical Education teachers Steve Ciancio (OPS) and Chris Keenan (ASM) presented new activities to enhance the physical literacy of students at the annual NY-SAHPERD state conference in Verona, NY. The conference took place from November 17 to 20.

### LaGrange Middle

ELA teacher Laurie Bryant is collaborating with a former LMS student, EmiJo



Photo by Kim Sweck

### Arlington High School

On October 29, technology teacher Dan Braun presented a talk titled "Woodturning—Different Ways To Make Bowls" at the 2021 Technology Fall Conference that was held at SUNY Oswego. His presentation focused on the math and equipment used to employ segmented and laminated turning techniques.

Lucarini (now a freshman at AHS), on a picture book project for the National Parks Service & Hyde Park's Vanderbilt Mansion. It is historical fiction as told by a young Irish immigrant maid and introduces Louise Vanderbilt's charitable work, and also covers basic gilded age history. They are also working on a version to submit to Bryant's agent to submit for commercial publication.

### Overlook Primary

On November 11, kindergarten teacher Karen Maher presented at the 2021 New York State Reading Association Conference. The conference, entitled Re-Envisioning a Brave New World, focused on literacy teaching and learning (PreK-12) while incorporat-

ing modern technologies, social justice and cultural literacy. At the conference, Maher shared the ways in which her kindergartners used process drama in the forms of digital videography, tableaux, and hot seat interviews to step into the shoes of characters from social issue themed books.

### Union Vale Middle

Spanish teacher Lauren Casado is a Girl Scout leader for a Junior troop of 11 girls. Her goal is for the girls to build friendships, learn new things, and help others. They will be going to Habitat for Humanity in Wappingers Falls to decorate Christmas trees that will be auctioned off to benefit that organization.

# AHS Teacher Earns PhD From SUNY Albany

What does it take to earn a PhD in curriculum and instruction? For AHS social studies teacher Lauren Collet-Gildard it was seven years, the birth of two kids, and a second job as an adjunct professor at Bard College. Or, as she explains, "I don't think that anyone who has a PhD is smarter than anyone else. It's really about persistence. It just took a long time and I stuck with it and worked really hard, and I think if you're really interested in it and it's something that you want and you're curious about, it makes sense."

Collet-Gildard attributes her drive to learn to her parents. "It's genetic," she says, "My parents have always had a lot of interests and are really curious intellectually and also have a wide array of things that they're into."

This inherited curiosity and an interest in the theory and research behind education led Collet-Gildard to start thinking about pursuing a PhD when she had been at AHS for three or four years. An extensive search to find the right program for her led to SUNY Albany, and after her acceptance to the Department of Education and Practice in the School of Education she found herself driving to Albany after school a few times a week to take classes.

After a year of being enrolled part-time, she was asked by a professor to move to full-time and be his assistant. She was also now pregnant. Serendipity allowed for the combination of these two life-altering occurrences and Collet-Gildard was able to conduct research while on leave from AHS.

After the birth of her second child she came back to her teaching posi-



Photos Courtesy of Lauren Collet-Gildard

AHS social studies teacher Lauren Collet-Gildard defended her PhD thesis on November 16, 2021 at SUNY Albany.

tion and, "My data kind of sat for awhile," as she puts it. "For a long time I was ABD (all but dissertation). I guess that I didn't think that I wouldn't finish, it was just at what point was the fire going to be hot enough because it was too embarrassing. I had gotten so far." One

talking about the subject matter, and its continued relevance, even after originally exploring the topic in 2014. "Fake news and misinformation was this big issue, and then it kind of calmed down for a little bit, and now it's so much bigger. I thought by leaving this to sit for so

***"I don't think that anyone who has a PhD is smarter than anyone else. It's really about persistence."***

**-Lauren Collet-Gildard**

thing gave Collet-Gildard hope though: "Every time I would read the work, even if it were six months without looking at it, I could just dive back into it. It helped me know that I would finish it," she says.

And she did, on November 16, 2021 when she successfully defended her dissertation titled "Critical Media Literacy in Social Studies: A Case Study". Her eyes light up when

long I would have missed the wave, but..." she explains. The last phase of her work focuses on empowering students to recreate the narrative and create counter stories to misinformation and bias.

For those interested in pursuing a PhD of their own, Collet-Gildard advises, "Be patient and pick a research question that you're really passionate about because you don't know how long this is going to take." That advice certainly worked out for her, and she is looking forward to exploring her dissertation topic more with both her high school students, and the graduate students that she leads at Bard.

# Dates to Remember



## DECEMBER

14th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., TBA  
24-31st—Winter Recess - No School

## JANUARY

11th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., TBA  
17th—Martin Luther King Day - No School  
18th—ATA Executive Council Meeting, 4 p.m., AHS Room 1432  
25th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., TBA  
25-28th—Regents Week  
28th—ATA Recognition Dinner for 2020 & 21 Retirees, 5:30 p.m., Christos



## FEBRUARY

1st—Deadline for June 2021 Retirement Decisions  
8th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., TBA  
5th—ATA Executive Council Meeting, 4 p.m., AHS Room 1432  
21st—Presidents' Day - No School  
22nd—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., TBA



# Announcements

Looking to get a start on your taxes before you receive your W2 form from the district? Make sure to save your December 23 pay stub. It will contain your yearly totals for salary and paycheck deductions.

The staff of *The Educator* would like to wish all ATA members a happy and healthy holiday season.

**Stay informed! Follow us on Facebook and Twitter, or check out [www.arlingtonteachers.com](http://www.arlingtonteachers.com) for forms, photos, calendars, and more.**