



SAVE THE DATE NOW.

**18th ANNUAL
TCAT CONFERENCE**

Dec. 7-9, 2009

MOODY GARDENS • GALVESTON

TCAT TALES

*Official Newsletter of the Textbook Coordinators'
Association of Texas*

Volume 12.1 Spring 2009

TCAT Officers

President

Karla Christman, Brazosport ISD, 979-730-7155

President-Elect

Abel Villarreal, Corpus Christi ISD, 361-289-9258

Treasurer

Kim Slough, Abilene ISD, 325-690-3707

Secretary

Linda Andrews, Palestine ISD, 903-731-8082

Immediate Past President

Brian Squyres, Northside ISD, 210-397-8132

Executive Director

Cliff Avery, Gilleland Creek Press, 512-251-8101

Executive Committee

Betty Adamson, Victoria ISD,

Bob Ankrum, Mesquite ISD 972-882-7328

John Bridges, Fort Bend ISD,

Steve Hanson, Galena Park ISD, 832-386-1005

Perri Ann Huntley, La Joya ISD, 956-580-5421

Melanie Kelley, Plano ISD, 469-752-8198

Chuck Kennedy, Irving ISD, 972-313-4833

Joel Lopez, Houston ISD, 713-676-9496

Linda Lowe, Hereford ISD,

Becki Luchak Spring Branch ISD,

Sandy McCollom, Hays CISD, 512-268-2141

Ann McGuffey, Duncanville ISD, 972-708-2051

Kellie Skarda, Goose Creek CISD, 281-420-4440

James Voss, Richardson ISD, 469-593-0577

Dana Wiest, Ector ISD, 432-334-3788

Greg Wright, Leander ISD, 512-434-5091

Barbara Brown, El Paso ISD, 915-759-2916 (alt.)

© 2009, Textbook Coordinators' Association of Texas. Reproduction for noncommercial purposes is authorized and encouraged.

From the TCAT President

Picking up the pace

By Karla Christman

TCAT President

Greetings Textbook Coordinators!

I can't believe that it has been more than three months since our conference. Time has flown by with the roll out of the new EMAT training – or as I like to call it the son of, the revenge of, part three of EMAT – and the challenging 81st legislative session in Austin.

Your TCAT Board has met once in Austin, and we have had a few conference call meetings to save our districts and TCAT some money. I have been up in Austin a few more times wheeling my little red wagon full of ancillary materials around the Capitol talking to anyone that would listen.

There is so much going on that it is hard to decide what to share first, but I'll start with EMAT, then move on to the Legislature.

EMAT - We all had the opportunity to see the new TEA EMAT system demonstrated by Ron Caldwell March 24 and 25 via the statewide webinar. I'm happy to say that TCAT members were not only invited to host sites for the presentation, but we were also involved in the year-long redesign process. Collaborating with TEA's IMAT group has been beneficial to both parties. TEA's John Lopez, Managing Director, and Chuck Mayo, Manager, Distribution and Accessibility, as well as all of the IMAT folks, have truly enlisted our input and feedback on the redesign.

Many of the new features of EMAT, such as the preferred shipping date section with the ability to inform TEA when our facilities are closed during the summer and the ability to see last year's enrollment with inventory on hand while entering populations, were brought about by our folks participating in the redesign.

No system is perfect, and we will see some problems as the new EMAT rollout begins. Hands-on training will be needed as we go forward, and I am confident that TCAT will continue to partner with TEA's IMAT staff to improve the system that we all depend upon for textbook management.

Now to the 81st Legislature – Yikes! There has been a lot of discussion and cussin' regarding the funding of textbooks for English Language Arts Reading K-12, as well as for the instructional materials in the continuing contracts.

After the statewide poll, commissioned by TexasCurriculum.org., overwhelmingly documented support for funding textbooks, the folks in Austin picked up the pace in approving funds. With the Permanent School Fund, which historically has funded textbooks, dropping from \$26.6 billion in October 2007 to \$18.3 billion at the beginning of this legislative session, our lawmakers began turning over every rock to find money.

As of today, the House Appropriations Committee has approved fully funding continuing contracts [\$347 million], but decided on a 25 percent

'Hands-on [EMAT] training will be needed as we go forward.'

Please see President, Page 7

TCAT at the Legislature



TCAT Pres. Karla Christman brings ancillaries to the Capitol to show the costs embedded in just one title as lawmakers grapple with funding issues.



TCAT Board members urged full funding when they met Senate Education Chair Florence Shaipro.

Right: TCAT Board Member Becki Luchak met State Rep. Dwayne Bohac.



Ex-TCAT Pres. Brian Squyres met Sen. Leticia Van de Putte at a press conference in support of full funding.

TCAT's Summer Institute offers sessions at 10 sites to get you ready for fall

Make plans now to learn or renew valuable Textbooks 101 skills for the coming school year. TCAT is hosting 10 half-day training programs around the state beginning June 4 and ending July 16. The full schedule is listed on Page 6, and the registration deadline is fast approaching – May 28, 2009.

The Textbooks 101 lesson plan includes all you need to know from ordering to warehousing and delivery to inventory. Experienced veterans share their secrets and knowledge to ease the whole process of getting books and other educational materials into the hands of students.

More than 70 new and veteran textbook coordinators

Please see Summer Institute, Page 7

Appropriations panel refuses full funding for textbooks

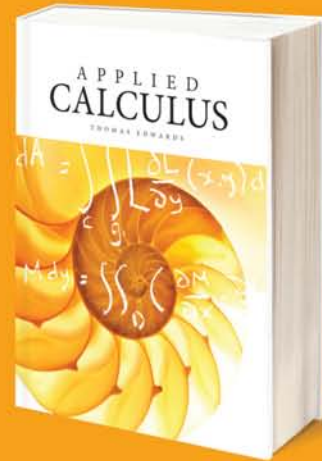
Bad news keeps coming out of Austin on textbook funding. At presstime, the House Appropriations Committee (HAC) cut 25 percent - an estimated \$137 million – from the budget to fund textbooks and meet the guidelines of Proclamation 2010. The HAC members feel this cut provides an incentive to textbook publishers to find a way to lower prices.

And the bad news doesn't end there. Lawmakers cut the budget after the Permanent School Fund (PSF) took a nosedive. Given the market downturn the PSF is expected to return nothing for textbooks in 2010-2011.

Please see Funding, Page 7

**REGISTRATION
FORM,
LIST OF SITES
PAGE 6**

Why should saving money on textbooks be such a hard problem to solve?



Maximizing your textbook budget can be a daunting task. With Budgettext, your problem is solved.

Save up to 75% off publisher prices with our quality pre-owned textbooks— all publishers, subjects and grade levels. Plus, generate funds by selling us your unwanted textbooks.

Contact us:
1.888.888.2272
sales@budgettext.com
budgettext.com



Galveston hosts TCAT Conference Dec. 7-9

Mark your calendar and get the car ready. We are off to Galveston for the 18th Annual TCAT Conference from Dec. 7-9 at the Moody Gardens Hotel, and it's never too early to start stashing, thinking, planning, and reminding.

First – start stashing those low-cost, but ever so useful door prizes that represent your school district, community or region and bring them to the registration desk in December. Really, if you start now you will have lots of goodies to donate and showcase your stuff.

Next – nominations for at least three board director positions and an alternate board director. Start thinking about candidates for these leadership roles with TCAT. E-mail your suggestions to Nominations Committee Chair Brian Squyres, briansquyres@nisd.net, by Nov. 1. Two officer positions – secretary and treasurer – are also open. Under the bylaws, officers must have served a year on the TCAT board.

Featured speakers and presentations are in the works and details coming soon. The ever popular Textbook Coordinator Boot Camp will be available, and TCAT is



Moody Garden's pyramids will light up for the holidays as TCAT arrives in December.

planning intensive training on the newly renovated EMAT system.

Exhibitors will also showcase their latest offering, providing great opportunities to meet and talk with representatives of publishers and others who can help you work smarter.

Watch for a conference registration form in the summer issue of TCAT Tales.

**Coming Soon from
Macmillan/McGraw-Hill•Glencoe**

NEW K-12

TEXAS

Reading and Literature Programs



For more information, please contact the Texas Regional Office at 800-882-3536 or tx_reg@mcgraw-hill.com.



**Macmillan/McGraw-Hill
Glencoe**

**THANKS to these sponsors
of TCAT's 17th Annual Conference**

DIAMOND SPONSOR

Follett Educational Services/
Follett Software
Hayes Software Systems
Pearson
Pearson Scott Foresman
Pearson Prentice Hall

PLATINUM SPONSOR

McMillan/McGraw-Hill/Glencoe

GOLD SPONSOR

Budgetext

SILVER SPONSORS

Gateway Software Corp.
Walraven

Funding/ from Page 1

TCAT leadership contacted HAC members voicing objections to the textbook budget cuts. Textbook funding continues to be treated as an afterthought. Texas school children are more valuable than that. Under the Texas Constitution, Texas schoolchildren are guaranteed free textbooks.

“In Texas we must teach our children not only to succeed, but to lead the nation,” said Karla Christian, TCAT president at a March press conference calling on full-funding. “Textbooks must be funded every year, and not

Summer Institute/ from Page 1

participated in the program last year and many requested additional locations for the program so three more were added this year.

And bring your address book or PDA for all the connections you will make with others who share the same goal you have – getting instructional materials to kids in an efficient manner. That alone is worth the price of admission.

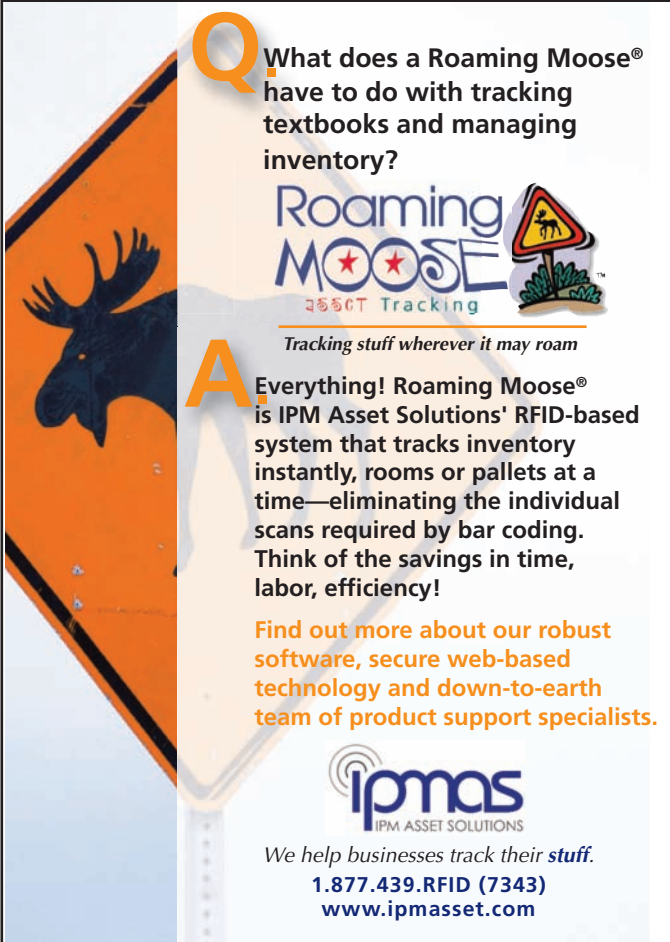
just when we have a surplus.”

Texas lawmakers need to secure the money to purchase the first new reading and language arts books in 10 years and align the curriculum with the new, robust Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills Test. Without this funding educators will be scrambling to provide their students with the learning tools to meet new accountability standards.

A one-time shot in the budget arm could come from the federal stimulus funds – once state officials learn exactly how that money can be used. For now, both houses of the Legislature are counting on using the \$3.2 billion in the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund to meet education obligations.

That leaves the \$9.1 billion in the state’s rainy day fund untouched, even though it doesn’t get much rainier that when the PSF comes up dry. The debate over how the federal funds can be used in education has only begun.

TCAT continue to monitor the discussions and actions on the final budget bill so watch your e-mail for news alerts.



Q What does a Roaming Moose® have to do with tracking textbooks and managing inventory?

Roaming MOOSE
Tracking

Tracking stuff wherever it may roam


A Everything! Roaming Moose® is IPM Asset Solutions' RFID-based system that tracks inventory instantly, rooms or pallets at a time—eliminating the individual scans required by bar coding. Think of the savings in time, labor, efficiency!

Find out more about our robust software, secure web-based technology and down-to-earth team of product support specialists.

ipmas
IPM ASSET SOLUTIONS


We help businesses track their stuff.

1.877.439.RFID (7343)
www.ipmasset.com



MIRRORS & WINDOWS
Connecting with Literature

EMC's new and innovative literature program for Grades 6–12 ©2009



Help your students engage with literature.

EMC Publishing

800-328-1452 • www.emcp.com

TCAT's Summer Institute will help you prepare for a new school year. A variety of dates are available to meet your schedules. All sessions are 9am-2pm. Get the information you need close to home at one of these 10 locations.

Regions 10 & 11:

Duncanville - June 12

Duncanville Education Center
Meeting Room B, 502 E. Freeman
Instructor: Ann McGuffey (Duncanville
ISD) & Donna Freer (Eagle Advantage
Charter Schools)
972-816-5267

Region 13: Buda - June 4

Hays High School
4800 Jack C. Hays Trail
Instructors: Sandy McColom (Hays CISD)
& Greg Wright (Leander ISD)
512-268-2141 ext 6055

Regions 2 & 3: Victoria - June 11

Victoria ISD Administration Building
102 Profit Dr.
Instructors: Betty Adamson (Victoria ISD)
& Abel Villarreal (Corpus Christi ISD)
361-788-9321

Region 14: Abilene - June 24

Abilene ISD Administration Building
241 Pine St.
Instructor: Kim Slough (Abilene ISD)
325-677-1444 ext 2854

Regions 16 & 17: Hereford

June 17

Region 4: Missouri City - June 23
Fort Bend ISD Educational
Complex/Progressive High School
1555 Independence Blvd.
Instructors: John Bridges (Fort Bend ISD)
& Kellie Skarda (Goose Creek CISD)
281-634-2947

Hereford ISD Administration Building
Computer Lab, 601 N. 25 Mile Ave
Instructors: Linda Lowe (Hereford ISD) &
Sharon Pennington (Hereford ISD)
806-363-7600

Region 18: Odessa - July 16

Career Center/Advance Technical Center,
300 E. 29th. St.
Instructor: Dana West (Ector County ISD)
432-334-3377

Region 7: Palestine - June 17

Palestine ISD
Sam Houston Meeting Room
1000 East Lamar
Instructors: Linda Andrews (Palestine
ISD) & Dan Stewart (Consultant - TEA &
Hayes Software)
903-731-8085

Region 19: El Paso - June 4

James Gamble Facility
4900 Woodrow Bean Transmountain Dr.
Instructors: Barbara Brown (El Paso ISD)
& Jon Powell (Clint ISD)
915-759-2916

Textbooks 101

**TCAT SUMMER INSTITUTE • 9am-2pm • 10 SITES IN TEXAS
BREAKFAST AND WORKING LUNCH PROVIDED
(maps at www.tecat.org)**

One form per participant, please • Deadline for registration: May 28, 2009

Name _____

District or Charter School _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone () _____ Fax () _____

e-mail: _____

***** SITE YOU ARE ATTENDING** _____

Check one:

Member rate registration (**@\$65.00**)

Nonmember rate registration (**@\$90.00**)*

*** (Includes TCAT membership through Dec. 2009)**

TCAT REFUND POLICY: NO REFUNDS. Cancellations will receive a credit for the TCAT Annual Conference, Dec. 7-9, at Moody Gardens Hotel and Convention Center, Galveston.

Check (payable to TCAT) enclosed **Bill my district or school:**

Billing address (if different) _____

City/State/Zip _____

MAIL OR FAX YOUR REGISTRATION TO

TCAT SUMMER INSTITUTE

P.O. Box 676

Pflugerville, TX 78691

VOICE: 512-251-8101 FAX: 512-251-8152

E-MAIL: textbook@texas.net www.tecat.org

President/ from Page 2

reduction from the amount requested by the Texas Education Agency – from \$547 million down to \$411 million – to fund Proclamation 2010, English Language Arts Reading K-12.

On the other side of the Capitol Building, the Senate Finance Committee unanimously approved a two-year, \$182 billion state budget that includes \$11 billion in federal stimulus money. The funding of textbooks, by their plan, will come from the stimulus package.

The good news is that they both have plans to fund some textbooks. The bad news is that they are on different wavelengths on where the funding will be pulled from and more importantly, if federal stimulus money will be available and allowed to pay for state textbook purchases.

Besides textbook funding discussions, there have been a couple of bills that may affect textbook coordinators around the state.

House Bill 1332, authored by Freshman State Rep. Diana Maldonado [D-Round Rock] would expand the requirement to hold Texas students responsible for damaged or lost school-issued textbooks to include electronic textbooks and other technological equipment. This bill was approved in the House.

House Bill 2261 seeks to establish a select committee to review how textbooks are funded, adopted and purchased. The bill, authored by Rep. Diane Patrick [R-Arlington] is still in committee. I had the pleasure of visiting with Rep. Patrick last month regarding HB 2261 and other TCAT concerns. I expressed to Rep. Patrick our support for this bill, offered her our assistance to help get this bill passed and our desire to work with the committee when this bill becomes law.

Our TCAT Conference is the BEST bang for your buck. Abel Villarreal, our president-elect, is already very busy with his conference committee planning training sessions on the new EMAT system, continuing our boot camp instruction and other necessary programs to keep us all up to date and informed on issues that affect all textbook coordinators across the state.

Folks, as you or others in your district begin working on next year's budget, don't forget to include funds to come to our 18th Annual TCAT Conference, Dec. 7-9, at Moody Gardens in Galveston.


In closing this letter, I know that I speak for all of us on your TCAT Board, please do not hesitate to contact any one of us for assistance and know that we appreciate and value your comments. The Textbook Coordinators' Association of Texas is YOUR organization, and we are here to serve YOU!

New TCAT leaders elected



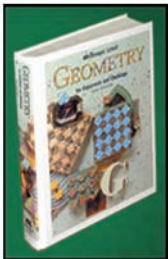
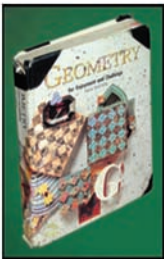
Karla Christman (Brazosport ISD) assumed the presidency at TCAT's Annual Conference in Austin.

Abel Villarreal (Corpus Christi ISD) was named president-elect, and Linda Andrews (Palestine ISD) was picked as secretary.

Elected to three-year terms on the Board of Directors were Betty Adamson (Victoria ISD), John Bridges (Fort Bend ISD), Chuck Kennedy (Irving ISD) Linda Lowe (Hereford ISD), Becki Luchak (Spring Branch ISD), Sandy McCollom (Hays CISD) and James Voss (Richardson ISD). Barbara Brown (El Paso ISD) was named board alternate.



Serving America's Rebinding Needs for 33 Years.



Before Textbook After Yearbook

Rebinding is still the best way to stretch your budget.

Contact:
Kevin Bonin, Justin Ogren, or Damon Osborne
at sales@houchenbindery.com
for pricing

www.houchenbindery.com
1-800-869-0420

Textbook Warehouse

Buy & Sell
Reconditioned
Textbooks



Sell New
Paperback Classics
and Reference

800-796-9152 fax 800-796-9154
936 Curie Dr. Alpharetta, GA 30005
website: www.tbwarehouse.com
email: info@tbwarehouse.com

TCAT's 2008 Conference



Above: Commissioner of Education Robert Scott receives a collection of his favorite snack food from 2009 TCAT President Karla Christman as 2008 President Brian Squyres looks on. Commissioner Scott addressed the Tuesday luncheon at TCAT's Annual Conference.



Above: Santa Claus (who looks suspiciously like Bob Ankrum of Mesquite ISD) greets actors from Austin ISD's Akins High Journey Theater Company. They entertained TCAT Tuesday morning, Dec. 9, with selections from "Cabaret."



Clockwise from left: TCAT members scour the House of Representatives Chamber for solutions to the Scavenger Hunt. · Textbook coordinators thank Brazosport ISD Supt. Joe Keith Ripple (left) after his inspirational talk at the conference Monday Dec. 8. · Charlotte Ezell (Pine Tree ISD) can't believe her luck - or is it lack of luck? - during the first-ever Casino Night at the TCAT Conference. The Casino Night was sponsored by Hayes Software.

*Photos
by Chuck Kennedy*



TEXTBOOK COORDINATORS' ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS
www.tcat.org

2009 Membership Application Form

Copy form (as needed) – one form per person

Name: _____

Your title: _____

School District/Organization: _____

County/District #: _____ - _____ / ESC Region #: _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Work phone: (_____) _____ Fax #: (_____) _____

E-mail address: _____

YES! I want to be a part of the Textbook Coordinators' Association of Texas

2009 Annual Membership Dues • Only \$40
(through Nov. 30, 2009)

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

Please Note: Registration for 2008 TCAT Conference (Dec. 10-12, 2008, Omni Southpark Austin) included 2008 membership registration and fee. If you attended, there is no need to re-apply.

Make district/personal checks payable to:
Textbook Coordinators' Association of Texas
(State Charter No: 01291643 Federal Tax ID No: 76-0461362)

Enclose check and mail this form to:

TEXTBOOK COORDINATORS' ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS
c/o Gilleland Creek Press
P.O. Box 676
Pflugerville, TX 78691

Fax to 512-251-8152

I would be interested in participating in TCAT at the planning level (i.e. committee member, officer, director, etc.)

For additional information call: Cliff Avery, 512-251-8101

Textbook Coordinators' Association of Texas
P.O. Box 676
Pflugerville, TX 78691

www.tcat.org

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Austin, Texas
PERMIT NO. 1

YOUR DISTRICT'S TEXTBOOK COORDINATOR NEEDS TO SEE THIS! SUMMER INSTITUTE REGISTRATION FORM, PAGE 6

Textbook Inventory Management Software

Textbook Ordering, Processing & Tracking

2 Robust Software Products, 1 Customer Focused Company

TIPWeb

- District-Wide Solution
- Web-Based, Browser Access
- Real-time Data Sharing
- Includes EZ Import (Automatic SIS Updates)

TIPfor
Windows

- District and Campus Versions
- Perfect for Independent Campus Use
- Network for Multiple Users at a Site
- Over 50 Built-In Reports with Limits

Knowledgeable, Professional Product Support Team

For more information visit www.hayessoft.com,
email sales@hayessoft.com, or call 1-877-847-3366
and let us know you saw our ad in TCAT Tales

 **HAYES**
Software Systems