

# The



A newsletter for members  
of the Carbon TIME  
environmental literacy  
project.

# arbon TIMEs

May 2013



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## Andy's Message

Hi Folks—

We have lots of exciting developments this month. Jenny Dauer, Hannah Miller, Kathryn Oleszkowicz, Jiwon Kim and I all went to Puerto Rico to present research findings from our project. We have also begun the exciting process of developing videos to accompany and illustrate the investigations of ethanol burning, plant growth, mealworms, and bread mold. Cohort 3 teachers have begun our spring online professional development, and last, but certainly not least, congratulations to Jennifer Doherty and Craig Douglas on the birth of their son Arthur!

-Andy

## Welcome new teachers!

We would like to welcome our new and returning teachers to Cohort 3 of the Carbon TIME project! We now have 61 participating teachers from 12 states: California, Colorado, Florida, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington, and Wyoming. We're looking forward to working with you in the upcoming 2013-2014 school year.



## Carbon TIME @ NARST

Some reflections on the 2013 conference in Puerto Rico

In April, a few of the Carbon TIME folks from MSU went to Puerto Rico for the annual NARST conference (National Association for Research in Science Teaching). In addition to taking a trek through the country's only rainforest, we had the opportunity to share what we are doing at Carbon TIME with the research community. Here are a few reflections from those who went:

*While preparing my presentation for NARST, I was able to take a closer look at how Carbon TIME teachers and students across nation are interacting with our materials. I especially enjoyed watching the videos of live classroom interactions between teachers and students. I appreciate our teachers' efforts to capture these valuable moments. Although I was quite nervous to present the paper at a big international conference like NARST, it was really exciting to see many audience intrigued by our Carbon TIME teachers and students!*

-Jiwon Kim, Graduate Student

*One reason I enjoyed NARST was because I got to talk to people from all over the world about my research! There are lots of researchers who are very interested in the work we are doing at Michigan State about how students learn about matter and energy and about student's inquiry practices. I also learned about exciting research projects that are happening in Germany, Texas, California and Washington. There are even folks here in Michigan doing great research on student learning, and I had to travel all the way to Puerto Rico to hear about their work!*

- Jenny, Post-Doctoral Researcher

*I was happy with the conversations we had at NARST about our Principle-Oriented Level 3 paper. One of the questions asked during the Q&A session was "Do you know if students are moving from Fact-Oriented Level 3 to Level 4, or do they have to first move to Principle-Oriented Level 3?" The answer to that question is: we don't know! But we're thinking of ways to find out.*

-Hannah Miller, Graduate Student

## Introducing Arthur David!

We would like to introduce everyone to the youngest member of the Carbon TIME family. Jennifer (our post-doctoral researcher) and Craig (our graphic designer) are proud new parents to this adorable blue Ewok on the right, Arthur David. While Jennifer is spending time at home, Kathryn is taking over some of her responsibilities (Thanks, Kathryn!). For those of you who know Jennifer (and her amazing work ethic), you may appreciate the fact that she was sending work emails from the hospital *after* she went into labor (she says the modern epidural is amazing and makes most of labor pretty boring). We hope now that Arthur has arrived she and the family are enjoying some quality time off!



# Summer PD

We're excited to have our Cohort 3 workshops off to a great start on our new workshop website:  
<http://groupspaces.com/CarbonTIME>

Remember: all of the workshops for the 2013-2014 cohort will be online. Here are a few reminders of upcoming events:

**Spring Workshop**  
April 26 – May 12

**Teacher  
Questionnaire**  
Before June 10

**Baseline Tests**  
Give your students this test before the end of your school year

**Summer Workshop 1**  
May 12 – July 8

**Ordering Materials**  
Before July 8

**Summer Workshop 2**  
August 1- August 30

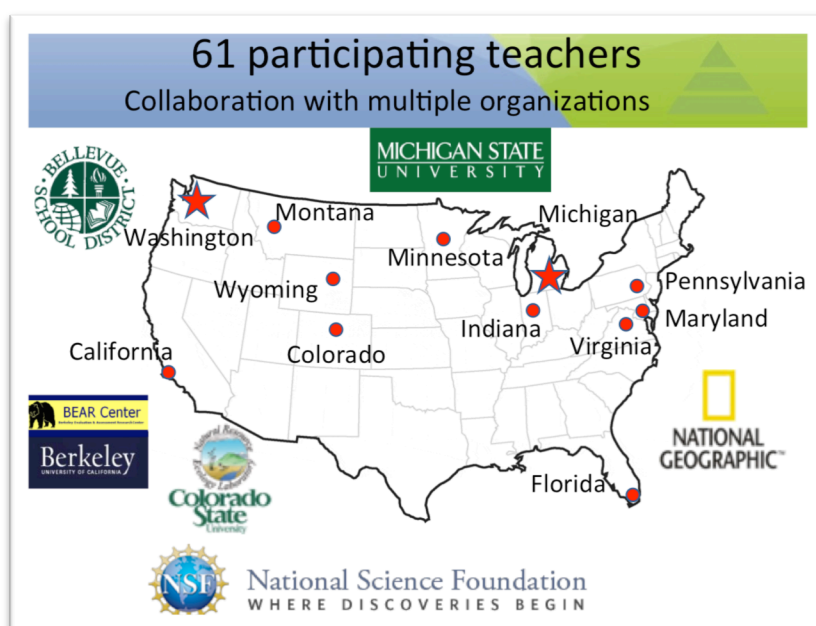
We're looking forward to a working with teachers from twelve states!

## Carbon TIME Videos



Teachers—have you been thinking about ways to add story, fun, and humor to the Carbon TIME investigations? We have, too! Carbon TIME is working with a company called Fable Vision on the production of four videos to accompany our units. This is a work in progress, but we want to give you an update so you know what's on the way. We plan to have them done by August.

According to Fable Vision, one of the purposes of the videos is to “help students and teachers better understand the linkages between their visual observations and measurements and the key concepts of Carbon TIME: the Movement Question, the Carbon Question, and the Energy Question.” Fable Vision prioritizes three concepts in their creative design: constructivism, story, and humor. Humor?! Is there room for humor in science class?! Fable Vision thinks so: “We value humor and novelty as tools to introduce people to new ideas. Research has shown that these techniques improve retention, and, of course, they make the experience more fun and memorable!” We're looking forward to the Carbon TIME investigations getting a digital face lift. Filming and production start in June—stay tuned for more progress!





# Spotlight on the science teacher



Please join us in saying hello to one of our participating teachers, Kelsey Johnson. Kelsey is an environmental science teacher at George Washington High School in Philadelphia, PA. Kelsey incorporates a lot of gardening into her curriculum, working with urban students who don't often have access to natural settings: "Gardening is a simple and concrete way for students to interact with nature. I was shocked when I found out that many of them had never grown anything from seed." Kelsey is originally from Michigan—when she was looking for PD opportunities while visiting her family here, she stumbled upon Carbon TIME through the MSP website. Kelsey says that Carbon TIME "encourages me to take pedagogical risks that I might not have otherwise tried." In addition to being a fabulous teacher, Kelsey also blogs for the Huffington Post! Read her latest post at: <http://huff.to/ZEuAzM>

We were excited to see that Carbon TIME got a shout out in the article! Great to have you with us, Kelsey!

## Links You Need

Testing Website and Dashboard:

<http://ibis-live.nrel.colostate.edu/MSP/home.php>

- Give feedback
- Order Materials
- Shipping information

Group Spaces Workshops:

[www.groupspaces.com/CarbonTIME](http://www.groupspaces.com/CarbonTIME)

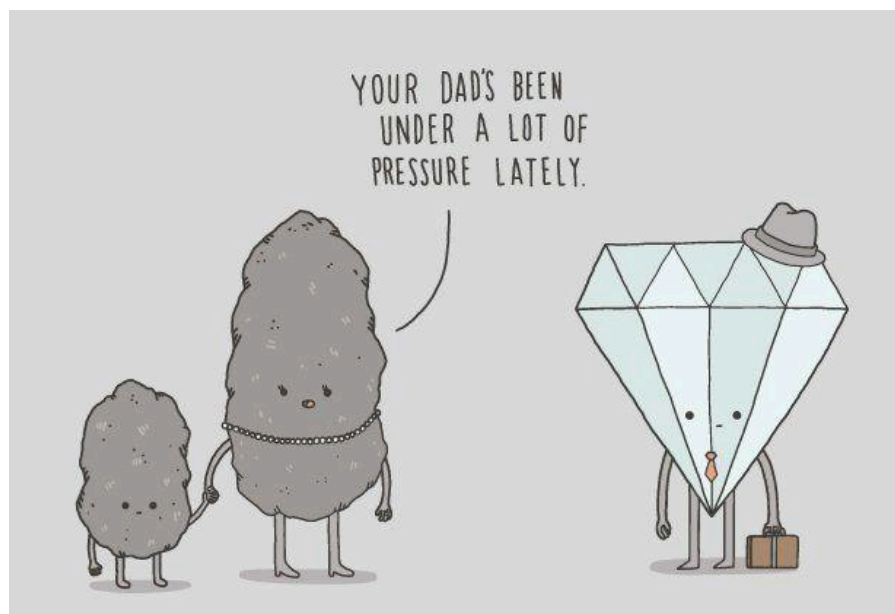


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([sharpst5@msu.edu](mailto:sharpst5@msu.edu)) to  
request to join our group.



Follow us on Twitter:  
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# Carbon Comics



Recruitment Flyer: <http://edr1.educ.msu.edu/environmentallit/publicsite/html/CarbonTIME1314.html>

Newsletters: [http://edr1.educ.msu.edu/environmentallit/publicsite/html/CarbonTIME\\_newsletter.html](http://edr1.educ.msu.edu/environmentallit/publicsite/html/CarbonTIME_newsletter.html)

Teaching Materials: <http://edr1.educ.msu.edu/environmentallit/publicsite/html/CarbonTIME.html>