Curriculum Vitae

Donald Pata

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Teaching Experience

High School Physics Teacher — September 1999 – Present
Grosse Pointe North High School — Grosse Pointe Woods, MI
Teaching 3 levels of physics – Calculus, Trigonometry and Algebra

Trainer for Physics Teachers — Summers 2010 and 2011
Oakland Schools (Oakland County ISD) — Royal Oak, MI
Trained teachers to use the Modeling Method for teaching high school physics

Textbook Reviewer — 2010 and 2011
Worked with a review team from McGraw-Hill on the latest version of *Principles and Problems* a widely used introductory physics textbook

Professional Development Leader — August 2008 and 2009
Conducted two, one-day professional development workshops for high school and middle school science teachers integrating both physical science content and inquiry based methods — Ludington, MI

Presenter — 2009 – 2011
Led workshops at national, state and local conferences for Arbor Scientific (a science supply company) highlighting their products and using them with pedagogically appropriate methods

Trainer for Teachers — Summers 2005 – 2008
Science of Cell Phones and Wireless Communications — Metropolitan Detroit, MI
Taught 2 day workshops to local science teachers in using the "Cell Phone" curriculum

Science and Mathematics Teacher — 1996 – 1997
United States Peace Corps — Ghana, Africa
Taught Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics in a rural village in West Africa

Education

Master of Arts — Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
Teaching, May 2003

Post Graduate Teaching Certificate — Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
Physics and Chemistry, May 1999

Bachelor of Science — Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
Chemistry, May 1996

Arizona State University – Tempe, AZ — Attended: Summers 2002 – 2005
I spent three summers in Tempe taking graduate courses in advanced courses in pedagogy and physics content related to the Modeling Method for teaching high school physics.

University of Michigan – Dearborn, MI — Attended: Summer 2000
I spent 4 weeks learning the Modeling Method for teaching high school physics. The Modeling Method is an NSF funded teaching program that teaches teachers to use an effective inquiry-based method to teach high school physics. The Modeling Method has been shown to be the most effective teaching methodology currently in place in today's high schools.

AP Physics Institute – University of Georgia Athens, GA — Attended: Summer 2002
I spent one week at an AP Physics institute preparing to teach the C level in the fall of that year.

Education

Project PHYSLab – Portland, OR Attended: Summer 2001
I spent 4 weeks in Portland learning how to integrate current new technology with strong pedagogy. Project PHYSLab was a long running NSF funded program that taught teachers from all around the country the wonders of computers and interfaces for the classroom.

Wayne State University – Detroit, MI Attended: Fall 2008
I took a one semester 200 level astronomy in preparation for hopefully teaching astronomy at the high school in the future.

Honors & Awards

Metro Detroit Science Teachers Association: 2005
High School Teacher of the Year

Michigan Science Teachers Association: 2001
Teacher of Promise

Professional Responsibilities

FIRST Robotics Sponsor Team 1189 2010-Present
Science Department Chairperson 2011-2012

Publications

Davids, M., Forrest, R., & Pata, D. (2010). Teaching the fundamentals of cell phones and wireless communications. *The Physics Teacher*, 48 (4), 217-221

Davids, M., Forrest, R., & Pata, D. (2003). *Science of Cell Phones and Wireless Communication.*
This is a three week curricular unit that teaches students the science of wireless communication. It was researched and written in collaboration with a grant from the NEA with support from the Convergence Educational Foundation which is now called *Square One Educational Network*.

Pata, D. (2002). *Grade 11 and 12 Physics Students' Post-Instructional Conceptions of Force and Motion.*
This is my unpublished maters thesis.

Pata, D. (2001). Mini-Labs for Emphasis of Relationships Between Variables. *MSTA Journal*, 46 (2), 36-36

Presentations

AAPT National Conference 2009 Ann Arbor, MI *Discrepant Events for the Physics Classroom*
AAPT National Conference 2006 Syracuse, NY *The Science of Cell Phones and Wireless Communication*
AAPT National Conference 2005 Salt Lake City, UT *The Science of Cell Phones and Wireless Communication*
NSTA National Conference 2006 Anaheim, CA *The Science of Cell Phones and Wireless Communication*
NSTA Regional Conference 2007 Detroit, MI *Make and Take for New Teachers*
MSTA State Conference 2001 – 2011, MI
MDSTA Local Conference 2001 – 2010 Metropolitan Detroit Area, MI
DMAPT Local Meetings 2001 – 2011 Metropolitan Detroit Area, MI

Professional Organizations

AAPT (American Association of Physics Teachers)
NSTA (National Science Teachers Association)
MSTA (Michigan Science Teachers Association)
MEA (Michigan Educational Association)
MI-AAPT (Michigan Section of the AAPT: Current Treasurer)
MDSTA (Metro Detroit Science Teachers Association)
DMAPT (Detroit Metropolitan Area Physics Teachers: Past President)
GPEA (Grosse Pointe Educational Association)