Dorie Nemeth of the Philadelphia School District peddles over Passo Gavia in the Italian Alps without ever leaving the convention center, as VCycling founder Buzz Gardner explains the system's benefits. Gardner, a competitive cyclist, retired early from corporate America to found VCycling, which has as its mission the reduction of child obesity.

Special Focus Playgrounds Swing With Dancing, Music, Art and Fun

TRACY COZZENS

MIDI, iMovie and Dance, Dance Revolution: These are just a few of the technologies that can be an integral part of art, music and physical education.

These resources, and many more, will be on display at this year's Special Focus Playgrounds, held in Bridge Hall. The "explore-as-you-go" environment allows you to try a wide range of technologies that can enhance the classroom, conveniently brought together in one place. In a single visit, you can compose music with a MIDI keyboard, create your own animation, or jump and jive with the Dance, Dance Revolution video game to your heart's content.

The four playgrounds offered this year focus on art, music, physical education and health, and assistive technology. Each playground has five stations that demonstrate technology.

The success of 2004's AT Playground spurred the expansion into new curriculum areas.

"NECC as a whole covers so many aspects of integrating technology into the classroom — infrastructure, training, strategies for virtually every grade level," explained Anita McAnear, NECC National Program Chair. "But certain curricular areas aren't as well

represented as, say, mathematics, science and language arts. The playgrounds are a way to highlight how technology can support art, PE, music and assistive technology."

Carol Teitelman, event coordinator and Southeast Regional Program Chair, called the expanded playgrounds "a way to illuminate the use of technology in areas that have not been as visible in past conferences."

"The program committee chose art, music and physical education because of the wonderful solutions that are available in these areas," she said. "So many new tools make it possible for classroom teachers to differentiate instruction in specialty areas with which they may not be that comfortable."

The playgrounds are for all education including specialists. Software, hardware and activities for grades PK-12 will be demonstrated. K-20 educator specialists at each station will guide the hands-on activities.

"The playgrounds offer a chance to play!" Teitelman said. "People will be able to stroll through the playground, stop and ask questions of someone who really uses the program, and then give it a quick try."
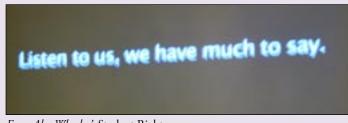
Two of the areas were

Rave Reviews for Student Films

J.V. BOLKAN AND AMY MILLER

Celebrating the power of student voices when amplified by video technology, the Student Film Festival held last night at the Marriott was a fantastic showcase. The event, a collaboration of public broadcaster WHYY and ISTE, featured 14 of the best shorts and super-short public service announcements (PSA) for educational technology funding.

Apple Computer helped bring student representatives from three teams to the screening. These students were made available after the screening for a lively interactive question and answer session.

Student filmmakers in attendance at the NECC 2005 Student Voices Student Film Festival.

Demonstrating a blending of artistic vision, technological prowess, and youthful passion, the films range

From Alex Wheeler's Student Rights

from funny to shocking, sometimes in the matter of a few frames. The first film of the evening was a delightful look at the effects of overloading students with homework.

William Ford-Conway

Preceded by a warning of its potentially unsettling nature, the audience handled the blood-drenched exaggeration with belly laughs.

Student filmmakers in attendance included William Ford-Conway who was in 7th grade when he created his charming and ambitious animation, voice-over, live-action film *Dogs Rule! Never Take Freedom For Granted.* Carly Wolff and Laura Caccavo produced *If This Is the Will of God …Who Needs God?* A group of five high school students from Kentucky, Regina Durkan, Randi Robey, Erik Gonzalez, Jordan Schneider and Mike Simpson contributed to *Teen Suicide* and the PSA *Technology: Empowering Kentucky's Youth.*

In an immense auditorium temporarily transformed into an elegant old-style movie theater, attendees were greeted with a red carpet entryway lined with cheering volunteers and paparazzi. Inside, refreshments and popcorn were offered. The hundreds of appreciative cinephiles applauded wildly at the end of each of the screened films.

Gallery Exhibits Showcase Educator Accomplishments

DAVIS N. SMITH

Hewlett-Packard educational grant recipients and ISTE Institute participants showcased their achievements during a pair of Gallery Walks at the conference. On Sunday afternoon, the current ISTE Institute cohort of educators from across North America unfurled their displays in the Howe/Lescaze rooms of the Loews Hotel.

The ISTE Institute combines face-to-face opening and closing sessions with an online program of intensive instruction in the National Educational Technology Standards, said Marilyn Schlief, ISTE Institute project coordinator. The program models evidence-based and data-driven decision making and provides mentors from

NECC NOTES

Keynotes Streaming Online
Missed the keynote Monday night? Find it posted at www.iste.org/necc/ under Program/Webcast Sessions. Also find a list of the sessions that are being Webcast. All Webcast sessions will be archived by KidzOnline through June 27, 2006.

Lost & Found
Missing something? Check the Conference Info Booth between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. to see if someone turned it in.

Sharing Voices, Improving Learning

PAUL REINHART

Welcome to another day of learning, growing and networking at NECC! If you are like me, you have already gleaned numerous ideas, tips and tricks from colleagues and new friends from around the world. Pace yourself though — you still have two more days!

"Student Voices," one of this year's special program emphases, focuses on what we as educators can do to increase student learning. As a technology-using classroom teacher, having a professional development experience such as NECC provides me with a year's worth of ideas for my students.

Attending "big picture" and "vision" sessions energizes me and opens my mind to new concepts and methods for improving student learning. Other sessions offer practical, hands-on ideas that will help my students and me take advantage of 21st century technology to achieve more effective learning.

Upon returning home, I will take some time to ponder these new and refreshed ideas for putting the learning in the hands and voices of my students. Then, as I begin planning for next year's students, I will look for ways to incorporate the new ideas and skills into my classroom activities.

They may be as simple as students using a spreadsheet to graph data, or students making use of a handheld computer and probe to gather data from an experiment, or as big as having my fifth graders share their knowledge on a wiki or blog.

I'll also bring their voices into our projects by developing rubrics with them and discussing design considerations for our project's audience. By giving students a voice in decisions that affect their learning, their ownership and involvement increases, improving the quality of their final product.

Many thanks to all who shared, and will continue to share, your voices and those of your students' this week. To everyone, I encourage you to take back what you've learned — share your voice to improve student learning!

Paul Reinhart teaches fifth grade at Conneaut Elementary in Bowling Green, OH. He currently serves as the PK-12 rep on ISTE's Board of Directors.

Playgrounds

featured Tuesday, and two will be featured today.

Visual Arts

Explore stations for digital photography, graphic design, animation, video and Web design. "The artist in each one of us can draw and create with several painting programs, digital image software and even an electronic canvas," Teitelman said. *Today, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Bridge Hall.*

Music

Explore stations for composing and creating music, learning about music, performing music and integrating music into the curriculum. Notes Teitelman, "Musicians will float their sounds through the hall with software that records the individual composer's work. Watch out, Beethoven!" *Today, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Bridge Hall.*

Assistive Technology

On Tuesday, educators explored solutions for students with mild disabilities

Paul Dolan demonstrates the CYBEX Trazer, a reaction trainer using an interactive virtual world to improve muscle and mental agility. Reaction time, acceleration, speed, power and balance drive the user's on-screen activities.

and sensory impairments, and explored AT resources, organizations and accessible design principles. The playground offered numerous suggestions for using many of the same technologies with non-disabled peers in inclusive settings.

"The AT playground exhibited software and hardware solutions that make it possible for all learners to participate in the learning community," Teitelman said.

P.E. and Health

At this station on Tuesday, attendees tried out a heart monitor, jumped into elec-

tronic dance and interactive fitness stations, and visited a health-related Web site. "You were able to get a workout!" Teitelman said. "Heart monitors, biking with technology and the workout station of the future were all be available."

The SETSIG again sponsored the Assistive Technology area. The art, music and PE areas are being hosted by members of PAECT, the Pennsylvania Association for Educational Communications and Technology.

Steal this idea!

Following the success of the Assistive Technology Playground at NECC 2004, Donna Broussard of the Louisiana DOE hosted 11 playgrounds throughout her home state. The highly successful events highlighted available technology and strategies, making classroom teachers aware of special needs resources.

If you're interested in hosting playgrounds, don't hesitate to talk to the event organizers to find out how.

Gallery

trusted organizations to guide the Institute teams.

The purpose of the Institute is to build technology leaders and advocates from the ground up, Schlief said. "The Institute is really about collegial learning. It's teachers teaching teachers."

The exhibits described project work that cohort team members have completed in their various districts during the past five months, including student-developed instructional Web sites, community planning projects and improved data collection and analysis techniques.

Rita Vasek, a technology instructor at Yes College Preparatory School in Houston, TX, and an ISTE Institute mentor, was part of the original ISTE Institute cohort in 2003 and served as an online coach for the current group. "Every group is different," Vasek said. "The scope, breadth and depth of these projects are very exciting."

Several Institute teams were also among the HP Gallery displays in the PACC Grand Ballroom Overlook on Tuesday. Teams of educators from 40 K-12 schools and districts in the United States, Canada and Bermuda showcased work

From left, Angela Mullgian, Jill Crabbe, Patricia Steen and Mary Strong from Community Consolidated School District #146 in Tinley Park, IL, display "The Road to Freedom." The project involves a Web site, WebQuest and scavenger hunt created by 7th graders to teach 3rd graders about the American Revolution.

they have accomplished with the support of HP Technology for Teaching grants. The exhibits featured resources, approaches and outcomes of the teams' work, as well as data that the educators have collected and analyzed.

Rachael Bertone, education program manager for HP, said 163 schools and districts received tech integration grants through the company's Technology for Teaching program in 2004.

"The Technology for Teaching grants gave teams of five teachers at a school the opportunity to work together on a project," Bertone said. ISTE provided all of the professional development for this initiative, which is HP's largest educational grant program. The teams showcasing their work were chosen by HP and ISTE program managers with sup-

port and input from mentors for the two programs as well as reports from the schools concerning the outcomes of their projects, Bertone said.

Next year, the ISTE Institute will focus on three teams of teachers from a single school district in Harlandale, TX, emphasizing vertical networking between classroom teachers, school administrators and district-level managers. "That is really more customized, when the teams are all from the same place," Schlief said, "because we can really focus on what is important for them. When the teams are from all over the place, you can't be as deep."

Teachers and schools interested in applying for Technology in Teaching grants for the upcoming school year should check HP's Web site (www.hp.com), Bertone said.

EXHIBIT HALL HIGHLIGHTS

Hunters Catch the Scent

Online Trek

Thinkronize and the Pennsylvania Department of Education announced a statewide deal to offer netTrekker d.i. to the state's 500 school districts. According to Thinkronize, netTrekker d.i. helps teachers identify appropriate online content for students through more than 180,000 educator-selected online resources aligned with the Pennsylvania Academic Standards and Assessment Anchors. Other features of netTrekker d.i. include a dictionary/translation hotkey, a multicultural pavilion for exploring the various ethnic backgrounds of the state's school community, and a student-friendly image database. Check out netTrekker in booths 112 & 114.

Easy Reading

The Reading Pen Group announced two types of grants for inventive and effective uses of the company's Readingpen word-scanning device. The K-12 Grant will provide funding to pioneering educators who want to use the product to improve students' reading skills, and the Higher Education Grant is designed to support college- or university-level professional development or research. Grant recipients will receive 10 Readingpen de-

vices as well as teacher support materials and guidance from a technology integration mentor. According to the company, the portable, pocket-sized Readingpen provides immediate support to readers by supplying pronunciations, definitions and translations without interrupting the flow of readers. Visit the Readingpen Group in booth #252 for more information.

Come Together

Cisco Systems announced that the San Diego City Schools

While browsealoud provides a way to hear Web pages "speak," their mime had little to say.

has deployed the company's Internet Protocol network infrastructure throughout the district. According to the company, the new hardware will allow SDCS to run voice, video and data applications through a single network, resulting in significant cost savings for the district. Cisco is in booth #1630.

Growing and Growing

Microsoft announced four new academic products designed to address challenges in teaching and learning. According to the company, the products — Learning Essentials for Microsoft Office, Shared Computer Toolkit for Windows XP, Microsoft Student 2006 and Encarta Academic Online — will enable teachers to optimize their preparation time, allow students to concentrate on producing high-quality assignments and simplify the setup and maintenance of instructional computers.

Microsoft also announced 11 recipients of U.S. Partners in Learning grants worth more than $5 million over the next four years. The recipients include the Alabama Best Practices Center, the Council of Independent Colleges,

"Brother, it's a jungle out there!" Visitors to the Brother booth #1532 embark on an adventure in computer peripherals.

Global Kids, Inc., the Lemon Grove (CA) School District, the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future, Odyssey of the Mind, the Global SchoolNet Foundation, the William and Ida Friday Institute for Educational Innovation, the SERVE Center at UNC-Greensboro, the Northwest Educational Service District 189 (WA) and TakingITGlobal. According to Microsoft, the grant initiative is intended to help individuals, communities and nations develop and grow programs that enable access to technology tools and foster technology skills and innovation. Microsoft is in booth #900.

Top Shelf

Scantron announced that the company's Performance Series math products and Achievement Series administrative tools were each selected as top Web-based products in their

categories in the Association of Educational Publishers' 2005 Distinguished Achievement Awards. Visit Scantron in booth #2437.

Instant Karma

Qwizdom's Interactive Learning System was a winner in the Assessment category of Media & Methods Magazine's 2005 Awards Portfolio, the company announced. The Interactive Learning System provides instant feedback and grading, allowing students to respond to questions posed during tests, lessons, reviews and learning games. Qwizdom is in booth #636.

Pipers from the Colonial period drew attention to the Exhibit Hall's opening.

Erratum: Barbara Kurshan's name was inadvertently misspelled in yesterday's story, "International Attendees Meet and Mingle." *NDL* regrets the error.

A group pauses amid the bustle to plan strategy enabling them to visit as many booths as possible.

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SESSIONS & WORKSHOPS

Pix Are the Preferred Picks as Peeps Pack PACC

Workshops Set Records, Sell Out

Despite setting higher standards for qualifying workshop topics, NECC has offered a record 145 workshops attended by more than 4,000 participants.

According to NECC's Rachel Bannister, many of the workshops sold out. However, rather than holding back participation, the majority have chosen alternate workshops.

Although some of the workshops have been conducted at the convention center and in the Marriott, most of the hands-on events were held at three off-site locations reached by special shuttles. William Penn High School, Penn Alexander School and the University of Arts graciously hosted the throngs of eager learners. Workshops are project-based learning opportunities that can range from half-day to multiple days. A number of half-day workshops ($99) are still available for today. For a current listing or to register onsite, visit the Event and Workshop Booth in the registration area.

▲ ■ ●

Sessions Open To Enthusiastic Crowds

Just as the workshop sessions begin to ramp down, attend-

High school senior and Student Showcase presenter Alex Bick explains his study "The impact of personal digital assistants on academic achievement," including how students' GPAs increased with PDA use.

ees are faced with the difficult choices of which of the free, highly focused sessions they will attend. Crowds gathered Tuesday as the first sessions began. According to NECC's Regional Program Chairperson, Carol Teitleman, "The posters, playgrounds and student showcases have been dynamic — full of people and full of life."

National Program Chairperson Anita McAnear provided an example of the popularity of some of the first sessions: "Justin Solomon, a student who wrote an article for *Learning & Leading with Technology*, gave a high-level computer science presentation that was overflowing. People were sitting on the floor for a session on algorithms. We want everyone to be able to

sit, but when people end up sitting on the floor, we know the topic is hot."

▲ ■ ●

Videoconferencing Bridges Distance

NECC's K-12 Videoconferencing Showcase may be the harbinger of things to come. It is becoming more and more common for us to get our professional development in

The future of professional development? Susan Swarthout from the Museum of Television and Radio presents a session from her office in Los Angeles describing the museum's distance education offerings.

our own homes or workspaces through Internet-based video-conferencing. These sessions at NECC bring speakers from far and wide to the conference to allow them to present to you. Yesterday's sessions included health educators from Health-Space in Cleveland, Ohio, and a distance educator from the Museum of Television and Radio in Los Angeles, CA.

The HealthSpace staff showed examples of the types of information they offer to students, such as live DNA testing demonstrations and an educational program on human reproduction.

The MTR in Los Angeles offers many educational programs that include access to vast quantities of archived footage from television and radio, all of which can be used in a videoconferencing presentation.

Find out more about these sessions and the IVC offerings throughout the rest of the conference on the NECC Web site (www.iste.org/necc) or in your Final Program.

▲ ■ ●

Creating Moments With Digital Imaging

Glen Bull, University of Virginia, and his colleagues have been working to help teachers better integrate images into the classroom in the core content areas. As part of their work, they presented their ideas in Concurrent Sessions yesterday. Brian Sharp, Indiana University of Pennsylva-

Presenter John Park explained how he was able to use an image he took of a space shuttle launch to teach physics concepts to students.

nia, led a session on images in math; John Park, North Carolina State University, presented his ideas for using images in science; Michael Berson, University of South Florida, discussed social studies; and Sara Kajder, University of Virginia, closed the day with a session on language arts.

The sessions were well attended, with Park's drawing more than 100 attendees. He reminded educators that they need to keep their cameras with them at all times so they can capture teachable moments to take back to their classrooms. He discussed a video he took of a robin's nest at his home. He was able to see how many eggs the birds cared for, who cared for the eggs, who fed the babies and even how the birds kept the nest clean. This information and the video and stills he captured became invaluable tools to use with students, none of whom would be able to sit in his backyard for hours on end watching the birds.

—Compiled by Jennifer Roland and J.V. Bolkan.

TODAY'S EVENTS

Internet2 Demos
Manatees Live from Florida
10-11 a.m.
PACC Exhibit Hall A Lobby
See the manatees at the Mote Marine Lab in Sarasota, Florida, through a live Internet2 connection.

Lewis and Clark Reenactment
1-1:30 p.m.
PACC Exhibit Hall A Lobby
Interact live with Lewis and Clark reenactors in Great Falls, Montana.

ISTE and PBS TeacherLine
10-11 a.m.
PACC Room 201B
Get an in-depth report of the first five years of ISTE's partnership with PBS to provide online professional development to teachers. Hear the findings from this U.S. Department of Education–funded project and learn where the future is headed in helping adults continue their learning.

ISTE/CoSN CTO Leadership Forum
10 a.m.-noon
Loews Philadelphia
Commonwealth Hall
Network with your colleagues as you identify best practices and perform a self-assessment of your district's progress toward meeting both CoSN's Essential Skills for District-Level Technology Leaders and ISTE's Essential Conditions to support the National Educational Technology Standards.

Open Forum with ISTE's CEO
11 a.m.-noon
PACC Room 113A
Connect with ISTE CEO Don Knezek in an informal gathering. Learn what's on the horizon for ISTE and share your ideas.

Favorite Free Ed Tech Resources
12:30-1:30 p.m.
PACC Room 103B
ISTE 100 companies offer many no-cost educational resources. Educators and students come together to discuss their favorites.

ISTE Membership Meeting
2-3 p.m.
PACC Room 201B
Connect with your fellow ISTE members and ISTE leadership at the annual membership meeting. Get a strategic overview for the next few years from ISTE's board president, hear the CEO discuss some of ISTE's new initiatives, and get the scoop on the budget from the board treasurer.

ISTE's Forward to the Future Initiative
3:30-4:30 p.m.
PACC Room 204A
Join Lynn Nolan, ISTE's Director of Professional Development Services, as she leads you through ISTE's Forward to the Future initiative, which has used a Delphi study to forecast the likely future of education. Nolan will also present strategies to help you plan for your future.

Gather for a Birds-of-a-Feather Session
4:45-5:45 p.m.
Various Locations
Check your Final Program or the NECC Web site (http://www.iste.org/necc) for session listings and locations. These informal gatherings allow you to network and share your interests with like-minded colleagues.

ROOM & SCHEDULE CHANGES

Cancellations
Due to unforeseen circumstances for presenters, the following sessions have been cancelled.

Wednesday, June 29
Poster Sessions
Enhancing Classrooms by Creating Online Resources for Students and Teachers
Alfredo Castro, 1:30–3:30 p.m., Grand Hall, Table P01

Research Paper (Lecture Format)
Addressing Individual Differences in Computer Experience: The Laptop Effect
Robin Kay, 3:30–4:30 p.m., Room 112A

Global Gallery Session
Project Barn: A Site Inside of a Portal of Education
Marisa Lucena, Vania Moreira 1:30-3:30 p.m., Table G10

Student Showcases
Graphic Design: Visualizing a Creative Career
Jon Krecota, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Table S07

Planet Profound: The Classroom Is Open 24 Hours!
Elizabeth Canzanese, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Table S03

Thursday, June 30
Concurrent Session
Data-Driven Instruction through Math Software
Robyn Silbey, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Room 108A

Program Changes
Wednesday, June 29
Universal Design for Learning: Meeting the Needs of Struggling Readers
New Speakers: David Cattell, Susan Birrell, Jackie Lawton, Brian McKean, Pat Previte. New Description: Learn about the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) through a research-validated software program for struggling middle school readers. 3:30-4:30 p.m., Room 107B

Thursday, June 30
ISTE's SIGTE Session Features Susan Patrick: U.S. Department of Education on Funding Opportunities for Teacher Educators
The director of the U.S. ED Office of Educational Technology will discuss ed tech funding opportunities. (Sponsored by ISTE's SIGTE) 10:30-11:30 a.m., Room 112B

RUMINATIONS & ILLUMINATIONS

What technology would you like to see in your school?

Adam Leposa
Salibury High School
"I wish our school had an easier way to transfer files, especially between my home computer and my school computer."

George Dang
Salibury High School
"Our school doesn't have enough money. We don't have CD burners. It would be better to have Photoshop on more computers and we need at least one real fast machine for things like video editing."

Jessica Connors
Salibury High School
"I'm not a big technology person, but I'd like more classes on how to use technology. I'd also like to see more focus on art on the computer."

Patrick Guy
St. Mary's School
"I'd like to see more computers in our classrooms. We have normal computers in the labs, but in the classroom all we have are old computers that aren't really good."

Katie Philips
St. Mary's School
"It would be better if we had more high-tech stuff for making projects in PowerPoint and Word."

Nick Brown
St. Mary's School
"I want to see more typing and a lot less writing. I don't like to write because I have very bad penmanship. I like to type."

Ethan Beaudoin
St. Mary's School
"I would like to see more SMART Boards. You can just go to the screen and touch it and that makes it better."

Blogs, Casts: The New Face of NECC

This year, educators from around the world are blogging and podcasting their NECC experiences, adding a new dimension to the term "networking at conference."

"Blogging and podcasting are a very exciting and innovative part of NECC this year, giving participants an opportunity to share their observations about their experience at the conference," said Donella Evoniuk, Conference Director. "We love the diversity and freedom that these technologies offer and how they take events beyond 'face-to-face'."

Read their blogs and download their podcast files from the following Web addresses.

Jeff Allen, Washington
Blogging: http://www.oesd.wednet.edu/blog

Erica M. Brownstein, Ohio
Blogging: http://capedblog.blogspot.com/

Steve Dembo, Illinois
Blogging and podcasting: http://teach42.com/

Kelly Dumont, Utah
Blogging: http://theeducationalmac.blogspot.com

Podcasting: http://www.theeducationalmac.com/rss.xml or http://feeds.feedburner.com/xmission/Agnp

Jeff Giddens, Georgia
Blogging: http://segatech.blogspot.com/

E-mail stations throughout the conference center provide opportunities for attendees to communicate via blogs.

JoAnn Gonzalez-Major, Pennsylvania
Blogging: http://midsolutions.org/ID_community/

Leo M. Grassi, Maryland
Moblogging (mobile blogging via cell phone, notebook, or PDA): http://www.interactworks.info/blog/

Brett Hinton, Arizona
Blogging: http://www.bloglines.com/blog/hintbw

Rolly Maiquez, Guam
Photo blogging: http://splashblog.com/necc2005/ and http://www.edtechworld.com

Tim Merritt, Georgia
Blogging: http://dvforteachers.manilasites.com

Craig Nansen, North Dakota
Blogging: http://stream.minot.k12.nd.us/blog/craig/

Pat Phillips, Wisconsin
Blogging: https://www.mainfunction.com/patp/blog/

Suzanne Porath, Aruba
Blogging: http://heartofateacher.blogspot.com/

Tim Stahmer, Washington, D.C.
Blogging: http://www.assortedstuff.com

Tony Vincent, Nebraska
Blogging (and possibly podcasting): http://learninginhand.com/blog/

David F. Warlick, North Carolina
Blogging: http://davidwarlick.com/2cents/
Podcasting: http://davidwarlick.com/connectlearning/

—*Jennifer Roland*

Hungry Like the Wolf

J.V. BOLKAN

Raw red meat. You certainly caught the scent yesterday. Monday evening's relaxed party mood before and after the opening session has been replaced as quickly as my golden retriever loses his obedience in the presence of a bouncing tennis ball. You became hunters on the prowl Tuesday morning.

Tracking down the very best concurrent session possible takes focus, a steady resolve and hunger for knowledge. Dozens of choices at any time, each tantalizingly available for the taking. Do I hop into this room with the dynamic speaker, or do I walk down the hall to my original choice? Which offers the most meat? Is there a similar session I can catch later? You may not have been thinking you were hunting, but I saw the look. Your eyes darted, looking for easy prey.

It wasn't just all the free sessions that provoked your feeding frenzy. If you hadn't noticed, the exhibit hall also opened Tuesday. The old cliché of the salesperson as the predator and customers the prey is turned on its head at NECC. In packs and as lone wolves, I watched you swarm into the hall at 10 a.m. locking in on surprised vendors and not letting up until they gave you the raw information you crave.

You even turned your attention on each other. Hunting for that incredibly elusive person wearing a number on their badge holder that matches yours. I saw some pretty varied hunting strategies. A petite slip of a woman bellowed her number every 30 seconds while patiently explaining to her mortified companion that every 30 seconds was optimal timing. Others baited the crowd by holding their arms up high long after the blood had drained out. I saw a young man laying in wait at the bottom of a busy escalator, scanning the most badges with the least effort. Thankfully, your raw red meat is the stuff of better education.

ISTE Senior Editor J.V. Bolkan serves as conference editor for the NECC Daily Leader.

Online Certification Program Launched

Instructional technology leaders now have a new way to receive professional development. ISTE has partnered with Johns Hopkins University's Center for Technology in Education to offer an 18-credit Graduate Certificate in School Administration and Supervision. ISTE anticipates that the program will begin in January 2006.

A key component of the program is a job-embedded internship you customize to meet your personal educational goals. Mila M. Fuller of ISTE and Jacqueline Nunn and Betsy Lowry from Johns Hopkins presented an information session on this topic Tuesday, 4-5 p.m. They explained the program and answered attendee questions. One question of great concern was whether the program was at a doctoral level. Although the program is not specified as a doctoral program, Lowry said, many doctoral programs will accept 18 graduate-level credits for your doctoral minor. These ISTE and Johns Hopkins leaders will offer a repeat of this presentation to interested attendees Wednesday, 3-4 p.m., in PACC Room 201B.

Attendees Win Awards at NETS Assessment Book Panel

At Tuesday's second NETS Assessment book panel, five attendees won door prizes. Pam McBride won a conference registration and hotel package for the first Power Users of ICT Symposium in Costa Rica, August 8-10, 2005. If McBride decides she cannot attend the conference, she will receive a complimentary online registration to the international symposium. Four attendees won their choice from a selection of recently published ISTE books: Helen Gooch, Melissa Woods, Patricia Callender, and Joyce Malen-Smith.

ISTE Welcomes Four New SIGs at Reception

Last night, approximately 300 people crowded into PACC Room 201B for the All-SIG Reception, which followed the SIG annual meetings. As educators queued up for barbecued chicken wings and egg roll appetizers, Ann Cunningham, special interest group representative to the ISTE Board of Directors, welcomed members of ISTE's SIGs: Administrators, Computer Science, Hyper- & Multimedia, Media Specialists, Special Education Technology, Tech Coordinators, Teacher Educators, Telelearning — and new special interest groups Digital Equity, Innovative Learning Technologies, Handheld Computing and Interactive Videoconferencing.

Memorial Fund to Be Awarded in September

The International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) established a fund in memory of Jolaine Harbour in August of 2004 and we are pleased to announced that we have received donations totaling $10,000. At the request of Jolaine's family, ISTE plans to use this fund to provide computers and software to deserving

Jolaine Harbour

students all over the country. Beginning the first part of August, 2005, ISTE will accept nominations from ISTE Member educators for specific students who have a need for a home computer and have demonstrated the initiative and motivation to take advantage of this opportunity.

Watch for the announcement of this nomination process on ISTE's Web site near the first of August.

ISTE's Jolaine's Joy Fund will reflect the joy Jolaine received throughout her career from providing children access to technology. Contributions may be made to the ISTE "Jolaine's Joy" Fund by check or credit card (Visa, MC or Discover only). Mail contributions to: ISTE "Jolaine's Joy" Fund, Attn: Chris Traver, 480 Charnelton St., Eugene, OR 97401.

—*Compiled by Jennifer Roland, Davis N. Smith, and Chris Traver*

Find Free Software

Pick up some freebies at the Free Software Center in the Bridge Overlook area in the convention center Wednesday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and Thursday, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. The York-town High School (Arlington, VA), Technology Rescue and Manheim Township School District (Lancaster, PA) are hosting this event, which is designed to "introduce the concept of free software" to educators, according to York-town student Willi Pearce.

Most people find it so natural to pay for software that they do not even think of software as something that can be free, Pearce explains.

Current and recently gradu-ated high school students are waiting to give visitors infor-mation about open source software and operating systems as well as network terminals and donated-computer labs. Visitors can take away CDs of free software for Windows, Mac and Linux systems.

Pearce and Yorktown graduate Nick Wheeler were particularly ex-cited about the Linux Terminal Server Project, which they say can dramati-cally reduce the cost of com-puter labs. For example, Wheeler says a lab administra-tor could buy a good server for approximately $3,000-$3,500 and connect it to donated computers to run applica-tions. The software they are distributing runs on comput-ers as old as Pentium Is or first-generation PowerPCs.

Willi Pearce is one of the students staffing the Free Software Center.

Another option for connecting to the server, Pearce adds, is a network terminal, which, ac-cording to the literature in the software center, costs half as much as a desktop computer.

The result is much like the early terminal-based computer labs many of us remember from the 1980s and early 1990s.

—Jennifer Roland

Look for this sign to find the free software and Linux demonstration area.

Sponsor Highlights

Please visit **Intel Innovation in Education (Booth #1323)** to learn more about our free professional development workshops for teachers and school and district leaders as well as our free online tools and resources.
- Teaching Thinking with Technology, which focuses on helping teachers use technology to enhance higher-order thinking skills
- Leadership Forum, designed to help school and district leaders promote the effective use of technology in their classrooms

We'll have several participating teachers on hand to share their experiences using our tools and resources and answer any questions you have. You can also learn more about our programs by attending a presentation in our in-booth theater. The theater schedule for Tuesday is:

Presentation 1: Integrating Technology Effectively with Intel Teach to the Future (11 a.m., 12 p.m., 1:30, 2:30, 3:30)
Learn about Intel Teach to the Future, the free worldwide effort to help edu-cators use technology effectively to enhance teaching and student learning. The elements of the Intel Teach to the Future program include:
- Essentials Course — Focused on helping K-12 teachers effectively inte-grate technology into the classroom using productivity software.
- NEW! Workshop on Teaching Thinking with Technology — Designed to further enhance K-12 teachers' effective technology integration skills and support students' higher-order thinking skills using a set of free online thinking tools.
- NEW! Leadership Forum — Created to help school and district leaders deepen their understanding of their role in promoting and supporting effective technology integration.

Presentation 2: Teaching Thinking with Technology: A Free Profes-sional Development Workshop (10:30 a.m., 11:30, 12:30 p.m., 1, 2, 3)
The latest offering from Intel® Innovation in Education helps teachers build students' higher-order thinking skills by integrating free online thinking tools into their curriculum. The tools include:
- Seeing Reason — For investigating cause-and-effect relationships
- NEW! Showing Evidence — For building well-structured arguments
- Visual Ranking — For prioritizing and comparing lists. Learn how you can engage your students and help them visually represent their under-standing of complex and interconnected issues.

All visitors to our booth can enter the daily drawing for a free Canon Power-Shot A400 digital camera.

Represented in **booth #1314, Texas Instruments'** research-based educational technology, professional development, and curricular materi-als are designed to create an engaging learning experience leading to improved student learning in mathematics and science. TI's DLP projection technology delivers brighter, more reliable pictures in top manufacturers' products, including projectors for education and business.

Stop by Room 404, Franklin Level, Philadelphia Marriott Hotel, and join us for the following:
- 9:30-10:30 a.m. Instant Assessment, Instant Results with TI-Navigator
- 10:30-11:30 a.m. The TI-Navigator System — LearningCheck and Beyond
- 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Navigating Higher Student Achievement — The Administrative "Rudder" (administrator's session — lunch provided, sign-up required)
- 12:30-1:30 p.m. Algebra using Real World Data: USA TODAY® Activities for the TI-Navigator System
- 1:30-2:30 p.m. TI Technology Transforming the Geometry Classroom
- 2:30-3:30 p.m. A Guide to Funding and Grant Writing
- 3:30-4:30 p.m. Algebra II and Data Collection

Join us in the Exhibit Hall at Booth #1314 for the following presentations:
- 9:45 a.m. Introduction to the TI-Navigator System
- 10:30 a.m. The TI-Navigator System in your Algebra Classroom
- 11:15 a.m. Innovative Classroom Activities Aligned to Standards
- 12 p.m. Digital Light Processing (DLP) — Classroom Projection Technology
- 12:45 p.m. An Easier Way to Collect Data in Science
- 1:30 p.m. "Terms of Engagement" — An Administrator's Guide to Imple-menting the TI-Navigator System
- 2:15 p.m. USA TODAY Algebra Activities for the TI-Navigator System
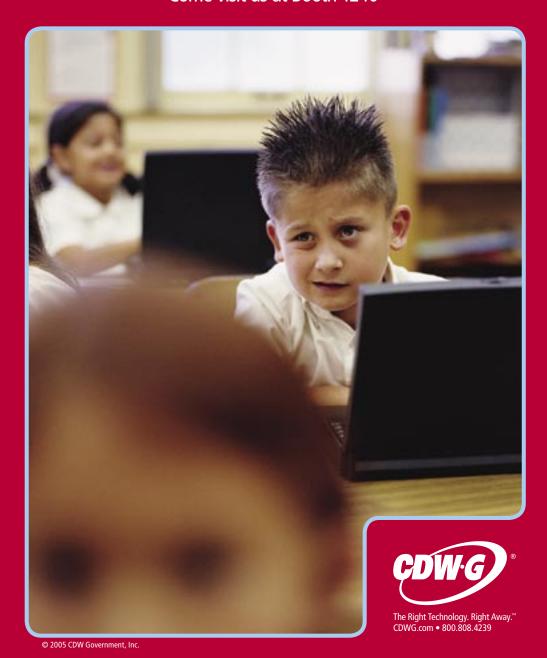- 3:00 p.m. Digital Light Processing (DLP) — Classroom Projection Technology
- 3:45 p.m. Enhance Your Geometry Class with Cabri Jr.
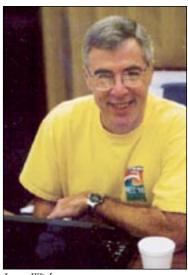- 4:30 p.m. Introduction to Scientific Data Collection and Analysis

ISTE Mourns Loss of Ed Tech Leader Wiebe

JENNIFER ROLAND

ISTE announced in May that long-time teacher educator and contributor to the NETS project James Wiebe had passed away after a long battle with cancer.

Wiebe was an original member of ISTE's Accreditation and Standards Committee, which drafted standards that were adopted nearly a decade ago by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) for educational technology and computer science programs.

James Wiebe

The same committee subsequently spearheaded the NETS Project. Lajeane Thomas, director of the NETS Project, remembers Wiebe as "a great person and a faithful ISTE member." He will be sorely missed for his expertise and contributions to the field.

Wiebe began his career in education as a math teacher in Zaire and California. He later earned a doctorate in elementary math education and a postbaccalaureate degree in computer science. Gary Bitter, professor of education at Arizona State University, recalls that Wiebe was a "committed student [who] was always available to do more than his part" during his doctoral study at ASU.

Wiebe was a founding member of the Association of State Technology Using Teacher Educators, an organization for individuals in the California State University system who were interested in integrating technology into teacher education. He was the winner of the 1993-94 Outstanding Professor Award

PHOTO BY JOE THOMAS

The original ISTE Accreditation and Standards Committee (from left) James Wiebe, Lajeane Thomas, Sally Sloan, Don Knezek, Harriet Taylor, Joyce Friske.

at California State University at Los Angeles. According to M.G. (Peggy) Kelly, Wiebe primarily taught night classes to students working under emergency credentials: "He had significant motivation issues as candidates were very fatigued after a full day of teaching, but he was always inventive and sympathetic to their needs and the needs of their students."

He was also a reviewer and editor for various journals, including ISTE's *The Computing Teacher* and *Journal of Computing in Teacher Education (JCTE)*. Wiebe chaired the mathematics group that developed portions of ISTE's bestselling book *NETS for Students: Connecting Curriculum and Technology.*

ISTE has established a memorial fund in Wiebe's name

to recognize an outstanding teacher educator from the educational technology community. To contribute to the fund, send a check or credit card information to: James Wiebe Fund/ISTE, Attn: Chris Traver, 480 Charnelton St., Eugene, OR 97401. For more information, contact Chris Traver at ctraver@iste.org, or by fax at 1.541.434.9589.

Birds of a Feather Flock to Roundtables

RACHEL BANNISTER

Birds-of-a-Feather (BOF) sessions offer conference-goers a chance to escape from the crowds and engage in small group discussion.

These informal, one-hour roundtable forums provide a special opportunity for like-minded educators to gather and discuss a particular topic of interest.

Located in the Bridge Hall Overlook and meeting rooms at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, these special sessions will be held today from 4:45-5:45 p.m.

Each session will be led by a presenter, who will facilitate the informal discussions for up to ten people per table.

Space at each roundtable is on a first-come, first-served basis. There are no handouts or prerequisites, but participants are expected to contribute their own experiences and be actively involved in the discussion.

Dave Edyburn, representative for the ISTE SIG (Special Interest Groups) Council, reviewed all of the roundtable proposals looking for
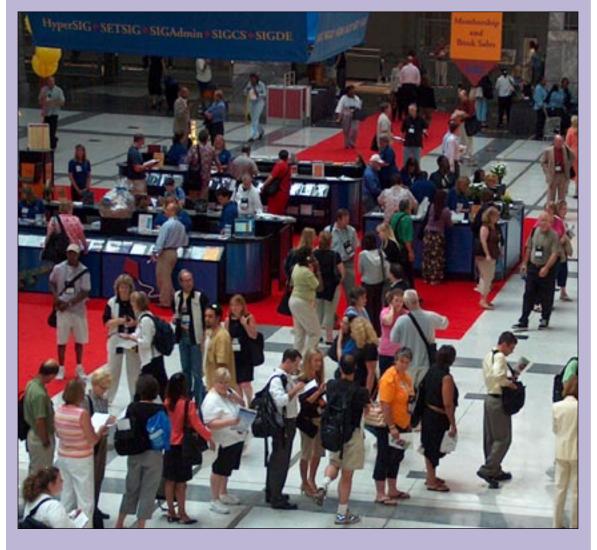
good topics that might lead to the establishment of new SIGs. Said Dave, "Because we received far more proposals than we could accept, our goal was to include proposals that focused on discussion and information sharing, while keeping in mind the possibility that these topics could grow into SIGs."

BOFs are an opportunity for group discussion with a focus on collaboration, resolving questions and addressing issues that aren't addressed in larger Concurrent Sessions.

BOFs also draw some of NECC's most distinguished presenters, who bring valuable industry perspectives to the table. This is your chance to meet with them in an intimate and informal setting.

Learn from your peers, get feedback on a particular issue, and explore creative solutions to problems. In a BOF, you can actively contribute to someone else's learning experience at NECC! For more information, check your Final Program or room signs at the Convention Center and page 5 of this issue.

All Aboard for Destination Education

On the first full day of NECC, more than 11,000 people filled the Pennsylvania Convention Center. Virtually everyone passed through the Grand Hall, a former railroad terminal. NECC events kicked into high gear, including workshops, sessions and the opening of the massive exhibit hall, which features hundreds of products and services for the tech-savvy educator.