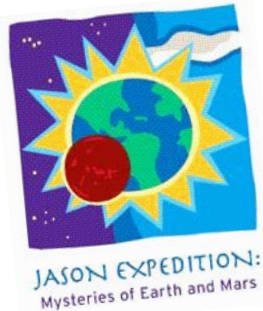




NOVEMBER 2005



JASON Expedition: Mysteries of Earth and Mars

The JASON Project is an interdisciplinary approach to the teaching of science, especially for middle school students. It allows students and teachers to work alongside scientists and researchers to tackle relevant science questions. JASON taps into students' natural curiosities about the world around and beyond them. JASON Expeditions have been in existence for approximately 20 years, with the theme/focus changing with each year. This year's expedition is to Mars!

To support and increase the quality of science education in underserved areas of our region, we at the UGA ETTC are participating in the JASON Project. We applied for and received a \$36,000 grant and

defined four project goals. The first is to facilitate middle school science instruction. The second is to help teachers implement the new Georgia Performance Standards using technology-enhanced, hands-on activities. The third is to support teachers as they implement this new strategy. Our fourth goal is to expand the JASON Project to underserved areas of our fifteen school districts.

In keeping with our grant, we held 2-day trainings in August and September of this year to introduce the JASON project to science teachers in our region. Since then we have visited their classrooms, delivered supplies, and most importantly assisted them in JASON activities. We are issuing laptops to our JASON teachers to support them in their instruction throughout the year. There is also a gated JASON website where teachers have access to online resources and web-based learning labs for the students to complete. The teachers who successfully complete the program will receive five Professional Learning Units and a stipend.



The UGA ETTC is currently participating in PROMOTE Georgia. This unique, statewide program provides students in grades 2 – 12 an opportunity to work in teams to create an instructional web site based on standards applicable to their learning level and interest area. The teams research, develop, and register a web site to compete within grade level divisions, both regionally and statewide. PROMOTE sites are judged based on a state rubric, and winners will be posted in May 2006 on the official PROMOTE web site, <http://www.promotega.org>.

First-time participants (coaches) attended a one-day workshop that provided training in Teaching the Standards with Project-Based Learning. As a result, coaches obtained a framework for forming a team, selecting content standards, and guiding their teams through the PROMOTE Georgia process.



Spotlight on Georgia's Innovative Classrooms

Throughout the year, the UGA ETTC is "spotlighting" classrooms in our region that are embedding technology into instruction in ways that are meaningful, authentic, student-centered, aligned with curriculum based standards, promoting higher order thinking skills, and enhancing instruction.

Teachers can nominate themselves or someone they know by filling out and submitting an application on our web site at http://ttc-2.coe.uga.edu/innovative_schools/. These applications are due by the first Wednesday of each month, and the UGA ETTC will choose one of these nominated schools each month to spotlight on our web page.



Capitol Tech

Not only will "spotlight" classrooms be featured on our web site each month, they will also be eligible to be chosen to represent the UGA ETTC's region at Capitol Tech day. On this day, January 30, 2006, the selected team will share its successful program with Georgia legislators at the Georgia Dome. For more information, visit the following website: <http://www.ga-edtech.org/capitoltech/>.

21st Century Classrooms

As most of us have heard the 21st century classroom is upon us. But what does this mean? Actually, the components of a 21st century classroom have been defined and are as follows: flexible arrangement of desks, wireless capabilities, interactive whiteboards, and a voting system. This month we will elaborate on the voting system element.

Have you ever asked a room full of students if they have any questions? Did anyone respond? Now there are technology tools that can help any teacher or presenter "hear from" all of the students in the room. One of these "voting systems" is known as the Classroom Performance System (CPS). A CPS is a response system that allows instructors to pose a question and have students anonymously respond using remote controls. The CPS can automatically record students responses in a grade book, chart them in a histogram, and produce reports based on individual and class responses. The CPS will truly take a class into the 21st Century.



Tech Tips

LCD Projectors have become amazingly affordable in the past several years. What once cost \$3000 now costs under \$1000. Here are some hints for using your projectors better:

Use the bulb wisely. It is not uncommon to pay \$300 for a bulb on a \$1000 projector. So, if you are going to be away for more than 20 minutes, turn the projector **off** (not just black screen).

Handle the replacement unit very carefully. Not only is the bulb hot when operating, but grime on a bulb can cause it to wear out faster and, in worst cases, explode. After replacing it per the instructions, reset the bulb usage timer.

Clean the filters at least once a month. Most projectors have a filter to ensure that the air used to cool the bulb is clean and to keep the lens dust-free. A clogged filter will make it run hotter, and wear the bulb out sooner.

Don't power-cycle the unit too quickly. If you turn the unit off, be sure to let it cool off before you turn it back on—about 10 minutes.

Try different video settings if the image isn't right.

Projectors have a native resolution, or, how many actual dots they show on screen. Change your screen settings to match the "native resolution" in the manual, and the image quality should improve.



UGA ETTC

<http://ttc.coe.uga.edu>