



JANUARY 2006

## Capitol Tech

Elbert County Comprehensive High School, along with twelve other schools in Georgia, will be the focus of the second annual Capitol Tech, held at the State Capitol Building in Atlanta on January 30, 2006.



This event is being held to demonstrate to Georgia's legislators the positive impact that technology funding is having on instruction in Georgia's public schools.

Capitol Tech will spotlight students using the fundamental technology tools necessary to succeed in the 21st century. "Today's education system faces irrelevance unless we bridge the gap between how students live and how they learn," according to the *Learning for the 21st Century* report, a report published by The Partnership for 21st Century Skills, a public-private advocacy organization for changing learning in the new century.

Students and teachers are eager for their local legislators to see firsthand how these tools are helping to increase student achievement and build community partnerships.

Capitol Tech is a collaborative effort between Georgia's schools and the state's 13 Educational Technology Training Centers (ETTC). The team from Elbert County High School in Elberton, GA, is representing the 15

school systems in northeast Georgia served by the ETTC based in the University of Georgia's College of Education.

Elbert County High teacher Sue Matthews and five of her students- Amy Jefferson, Al McCall, Amy Moore, Gregory Power, and Cody Scarborough- will show legislators how they use technology as an important part of their project *There's No Business Like Small Business*.



The University of Georgia Educational Technology Training Center is working together with school districts in this region to improve and promote research-based methods of instruction with teachers. Their emphasis includes the integration of multiple technologies to enrich the curriculum, effective uses of technology to increase school productivity, and distance learning to provide opportunities that would otherwise be inaccessible. Educators believe today's students must be empowered to meet the challenges of tomorrow if Georgia's citizens are to be competitive in the world market of the 21st century. The UGA ETTC is one of 13 centers across the state charged with this mission.

## 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 whiteboard element.

### *Interactive Whiteboards: SMART Board & ACTIV Board*

An interactive whiteboard can be used in one of three ways: as a computer monitor, annotation device, and as a companion for the software that comes with the whiteboard.

To use the whiteboard as a computer monitor, users input information into the computer by touching the whiteboard with some type of device. With SMARTBoard, users can input information by touching the board with their finger or special pen and eraser tools. With ACTIVBoard, users input all information with an ACTIVpen.



As an annotation device, the interactive whiteboard enhances software and Internet sites that many are already accustomed to using. For example, using the pens for either board, users can circle and highlight text on Internet sites, etc.

The interactive whiteboard software allows teachers to create Notebook (SMARTboard) or Flipchart (ACTIVboard) lessons that balance just the right amount of preparation and student participation. For example, teachers can prepare lesson introduction slides with text and links to websites and videos. Then they can prepare more slides with interactive activities that engage the students and test their comprehension of the material. Both SMARTBoard and ACTIVBoard work well with classroom response systems, so teachers can receive immediate feedback of their students' progress.

## Title II-D eMath Grant

The UGA ETTC is working with the following schools as they continue to model excellence in education by incorporating technology into their math classes. Thank you

- Chase Street Elementary
- Commerce Elementary
- Social Circle Elementary
- Union Point Elementary

for all your hard work on the eMath Grant.

## Title II-D Wireless Grant

### Grant Recipient Schools:

- Coile Middle (Clarke)
- Carson Middle (Greene)

### What's Next

All Teachers and School Administrators participating in the Wireless Grant are **required** to attend these sessions. Attendance is optional for Technical Specialists.

- February 16, 2006 , 9am - 4pm  
*All day session held at the Educational Technology Training Center at UGA.*

## Teacher Quality Grant

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.



JASON EXPEDITION:  
Mysteries of Earth and Mars

Thank you to the following schools that helped us achieve these goals:

- Winder-Barrow Middle
- Carson Middle
- Jefferson Middle
- Commerce Middle
- Elbert Middle
- Berkmar Middle
- Duluth Middle
- Lilburn Elementary
- Madison Middle
- Morgan Middle
- Oconee Middle
- Social Circle Middle
- Carver Middle

## Tech Tips

### *The Best Free Graphics Tool*

Just as you don't always need a Cuisinart to make dinner, you don't always need huge programs to do small tasks. Rather than opting for a Photoshop, try IrfanView. It's available for free at:

[www.irfanview.com](http://www.irfanview.com).

IrfanView started out as a small, efficient graphics viewer. Nowadays, it's still lightning-quick, but it can also read dozens of different files and convert between many of them.

Particularly of interest is its ability to resize graphics. Rather than putting that enormous digital photo on your website, use IrfanView to resize or crop it, and then save it into a smaller file. Your pages will load quicker, and it only takes a minute to do.

Word clipart is also very handy- except that most browsers won't show it. To use it on a webpage, paste the clipart to your desktop. Open it with IrfanView, and then save it into the more friendly jpeg or gif format.

### *Websites for Educators:*

#### Cyber Bee Copyright Site

<http://www.cyberbee.com>

An animated, interactive testing and learning site for copyright.

#### Internet Content for the Classroom

<http://www.marcopolo-education.org/>

An updated list of online resources sorted by subject. An excellent database of lesson plans.



UGA ETTC

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

