



MARCH 2005



## CapitolTech

The UGA-ETTC and Morgan County High School Agriculture teacher, Tim Savelle, along with 4 of his students, represented the 15 school systems in our area at Capitol Tech. It was held on March 7<sup>th</sup> in Atlanta. Thirteen school systems throughout Georgia demonstrated how technology makes a difference in the teaching and learning process. Students displayed projects using probes and calculators, websites and videos they produced about curriculum topics, electronic presentations, and interactive instructional activities using active boards.



Tim Savelle, Lauren Croft, Amanda Stephens, Representative Doug Holt, Mandi Hunter, and Bradley Towe pose with their display in the lobby of the Georgia State Capitol.

The Morgan County presentation drew a lot of attention from participants, state representatives, and other invited guests. Lauren Croft and

Bradley Towe demonstrated the use of a GPS unit to map area forest tracts and explained how a special Excel spreadsheet helped them manage poinsettia growth for their holiday plant sale. Mandi Hunter and Amanda Stephens helped viewers use two interactive software programs that are integral to their study of animal anatomy and diseases. They explained how a virtual cat dissection activity prepared students for the real thing, while a disease diagnosis program enabled students to participate in a veterinary science activity that would not otherwise be possible.



In an interview with Georgia Public Broadcasting, Mr. Savelle and the students emphasized that they view technology as a useful tool to enhance the curriculum. The students commented that many of the technologies used in class are already being used in "real world" applications. Students are highly motivated because the activities are more interesting than the traditional textbook approach.

Visit our website to see photographs of this exciting event and to let us know about innovative ways in which your school is using technology.

## New ETTC Activities

The UGA ETTC is developing many new programs in partnership with area school systems. In April, we will begin a professional development program for paraprofessionals in the Social Circle schools. After conducting a needs assessment, we have developed courses to help meet the technology needs of these staff members.

The ETTC will also partner with area recipients of the Title II D grants: Greene County Schools, Commerce City Schools, and Social Circle City Schools. We have assisted with the DOE training sessions and needs assessments, and are serving as consultants as these systems plan for technology integration in mathematics instruction.

Georgia's Teacher Quality Higher Education Program recently awarded the ETTC a grant to help middle school teachers in our area successfully transition to the new Georgia Performance Standards. We will offer training for using the nationally acclaimed JASON Expedition, a hands-on, activity based science curriculum whose theme this

year is *Mysteries of Earth and Mars*. The Technology Training Center will pay for teachers' training and program fees, supplies, and a small stipend. Additionally, teachers will receive ongoing support from science content specialists throughout the project. Watch for details soon about how your system can participate.



## Teacher Resources

### GA Learning Connection

<http://www.glc.k12.ga.us/trc/>

Many educators have used Georgia Learning Connections to look up QCCs and lesson plans; but there are so many more resources available on this website. The Teacher Resource Center contains numerous instructional and professional resources for teachers, administrators, and media specialists. First year teachers will appreciate the First Year Teachers link that provides classroom management ideas, survival tips, and other instructional tools. Click the Teacher Templates link for all kinds of graphic organizers, lesson plan forms, maps, rubrics, and newsletters. Try the link on the left side of the page for complete sets of sequenced standards based lesson plans for all grade levels and subjects. This resource center is full of exceptionally useful links.

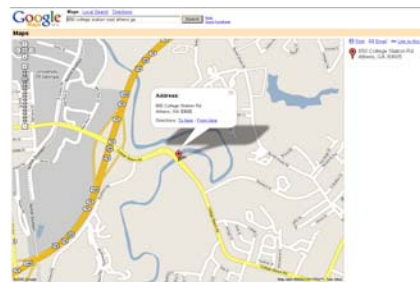
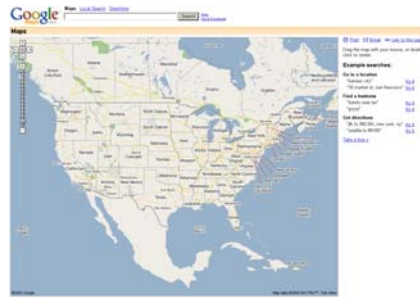
### Google Maps!

Once upon a time web users were bound to the painful reloading of every map when using MapQuest, Yahoo Maps, or any other online map service. But no more!

Introducing Google Maps! With Google's newest cartographic addi-

tion you can click and drag maps in any direction without having to wait for reload and without being bound to the compass rose. If you want to follow a road, by gosh, you can follow it no matter which direction it turns. Try it today!

<http://maps.google.com>



## Tech Tips

### Batteries

One of the best new things in technology has been lithium-ion rechargeable batteries. Most new laptops come with them, and those pesky NiCad rechargeables are pretty much relegated to cordless phones. Lithium-ion batteries are much more flexible in terms of use than any other rechargeables, but there are still ways to make them last longer and better.

First, they don't really have "memory" like NiCad batteries. They do need to be used, though. At least once a month, you should unplug

your laptop from wall power, and use it until its battery gives out. This gives it some exercise and tells it knows how much power it has.

When the computer is off, unplug the wall power once the battery is fully charged. The batteries have a chip inside that won't let them get over-charged, but they will last longer if they're not being pushed to the absolute limit all the time.

Don't use the battery if it's above 90 or below 50 degrees. If the laptop has been sitting in a car, let it get to room temperature before using it. It's much preferable if the battery doesn't ever get above 90 degrees, too.

Finally, if you're not going to be using the laptop for an extended period of time, try to drain the battery to about a 50% charge. If it's too full, it will lose some of its power range, and if it's empty, it might lose the ability to work at all!

These hints apply to any device with a lithium-ion battery, like iPods. For more hints, see:

<http://www.apple.com/batteries/>



UGA ETTC

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