



OCTOBER 2006

GaETC: Student Showcase

The 19th annual Georgia Educational Technology Conference will be held **November 15-17, 2006**, at the Georgia International Convention Center in Atlanta.

At this year's conference, there will be a **Student Showcase** on the second day of the Conference, November 16, from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm, in which students from across Georgia will be sharing how they are using technology in their classrooms. **Sue Matthews and her students from Elbert County High School** will be representing our service area and will be showcasing how they use dye-sublimation technology to create high-quality t-shirts for the school and surrounding community.

Come participate in sessions and workshops that will "innovate, inspire, and empower!" For more information, visit <http://www.gaetc.net/>



New Fall Classes

We are pleased to announce a new line-up of fall classes that we are teaching at the ETTC location in Gwinnett beginning November 6th. Classes will include the classic Office applications (Access, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher, and Word), Interactive Whiteboards (both SMART and ACTIV), DreamWeaver, MovieMaker, Classroom Performance System, Podcasting, and more. For more information and to check out all our classes, visit us online at <http://ttc.coe.uga.edu/classes.html>.



Spotlight on Georgia

Congratulations to **DeAndrea Lanier of Union Point Elementary in Greene County!** She is our spotlight winner for the month of October, 2006. This monthly award is presented to a teacher who is implementing effective technology integration strategies in the classroom. As a winner, Mrs. Lanier is representing our service area, which consists of fifteen school districts and over 200 schools.

"I truly believe that students will walk away with higher achievement and life long information when technology is integrated into the curriculum," said Lanier, who uses technology on a regular basis in her classroom. As the gifted facilitator at Union Point Elementary, she strives to provide students with enriching opportunities that relate to real world experiences. For example, after studying Georgia waters via the Internet with videos, research, and other activities including Web quests, Mrs. Lanier's students developed a sense of ownership and responsibility for keeping Georgia waters clean and healthy.

Mrs. Lanier uses Websites in her classroom to encourage students' higher-order thinking skills. Each week students complete and submit answers to brain teasers, analogies, problem solving, and critical thinking questions. Her students have also used online game board templates to develop their own games pertaining to the human body. Not only did the students teach their fellow classmates through the games, but they also tested their own knowledge of the body.

In addition, Mrs. Lanier's students create interactive math games in PowerPoint. In fact, Mrs. Lanier is involved in a four-year math grant entitled eMath in which she collaborates with other Georgia teachers to learn and implement technology strategies to increase her students' achievement in math. Her students' problem solving abilities have improved, an accomplishment which she attributes to the grant. "No longer are we teaching that there is one way to find the answers to problems. Nor, are we limiting their options on how to produce their ideas. Technology has allowed for us to individualize instruction and hone in on multiple intelligences," said Lanier.

Mrs. Lanier and her students have also participated in PROMOTE GA, a Website competition in which teams of students across Georgia design instructional Websites for topics they have researched. Mrs. Lanier's team won first place regionally and second place state-wide. "I am so proud of my 3rd grade group of Promote GA students," said Lanier. "The students and myself were really amazed at how much we learned about technology by the end of the project.

Students worked well collaboratively and developed wonderful ideas. They had tremendous ownership in the website and had a great sense of pride in themselves. As a coach, I felt so much joy... The students realized they have opportunities to create their ideas for others to see and make impacts among other people's ideas. I believe they will remember this forever. Not because they were winners, but because of the real life experience they had."

When asked why she uses technology in the teaching and learning process, Mrs. Lanier responded, "...I feel that students learn best when they are engaged. Technology is that engagement! Students are interested in the new ideas and like the concept of having technology readily available to them in this techno-savvy world. We, as educators are working hard to keep up with the students. They are surrounded by technology in their worlds."

Mrs. Lanier's class website can be found at: <http://www.greene.k12.ga.us/localuser/deandra.lanier/index.htm> More information about the Spotlight award and past winners can be found at: <http://ttc.coe.uga.edu/spotlightga.html>

Technology Tribute



This month we are featuring a powerful piece of technology that we believe teachers will use because of its simplicity and value in the teaching and learning environment. The Classroom Performance System (CPS) is a voting device that allows a teacher to gather and calculate data from students instantaneously. Have you ever asked a room full of students if they had any questions? How many spoke up? The CPS is a tool that allows an instructor to pose a question and have students respond "confidentially" using handheld remotes. Teachers can bring in existing Word documents (tests) and PowerPoint Presentations that can be used to teach. Here are just a few of the features and benefits of using CPS:

- Instant grading that exports to most electronic gradebooks
- Bring in current files and tests to use
- Ask questions on the spot and get feedback from your students
- Give multiple versions of one test in class with the click of a button
- View several types of reports to evaluate both teaching and learning

The list goes on and on. See what the CPS can do for your schools!



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