

Dynamic Landscapes

2006

Champlain College
May 19, 2006



Program

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VITA-Learn wishes to thank the conference cosponsors, the **Vermont Department of Education** and **Champlain College**, for their support. We also wish to thank Gateway Computer for the donation of a laptop computer.

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Presentation Descriptions

Welcome & Opening Remarks **8:30 – 8:45**

Opening Session **8:45 – 9:30**

It's NOT about Technology!

Bill Romond – State of Vermont Educational Technology Coordinator

OK! So it's 2006. We've been doing this for more than 20 years! Are the efforts we've ALL been making to support learning with technology effective? Are the digital natives getting restless? Are grade expectations, performance tasks, and data warehouses going to do it for us, or more importantly, for them? I wish this was more about answers, than questions! What resources are available to help in your work and where do we need to take our efforts in order to meet the learning needs of 21st Century students. Join this conversation to examine the "state of the state."

Strands

Strand A – Hands-on – Double Sessions

Strand C – General Integration

Strand E- Middle School Integration

Strand G – On the Horizon

Strand B - Tools for Teachers

Strand D – Elementary Integration

Strand F – High School Integration

Strand H – What You Should Know

Session # 1 **9:45 – 10:45**

A. Wanna Wiki?: New Tools for Classroom Teachers- Part 1

Sandy Lathem

What's a wiki? Want to find out? In this hands-on session, you will learn about wikis, open source software that allows people to collaboratively construct documents on the World Wide Web. In this session, you will learn how to use PmWiki, one of several open source tools. As we construct a document together, we'll talk about the pros and cons of creating a wiki and how we can use wikis in our classrooms and professional collaborations. It's easy, and fun and has potential!

B. Teachers' Workplace & Riverdeep Learning Village: Resources & Tools for Vermont Teachers

Arlyn Bruccoli, Bill Romond, & Jill Peck

Through its involvement in IBM's Reinventing Education program, the Department of Education has been a part of the development of technology products designed to meet the specific needs of Vermont educators. This work has resulted in *Teachers' Workplace*, a web-based suite of tools that foster reflection, collaboration, communication, and the creation of online portfolios. *Riverdeep Learning Village's* Vermont site is a web-based product to support the creation and dissemination of electronic classroom lessons and resources, promotion of best practices, and alignment of lesson plans to the Grade Expectations and Frameworks of Standards and Learning Opportunities. These tools facilitate the Department of Education's continuing efforts to support teachers' meaningful uses of technology in their professional work both in and out of the classroom.

C. Portraits of our Senior Friends: Digital Photography, Oral History, and Inter-generational Connections

Dov Stucker

For the past several months, 8th graders at Edmunds Middle School in Burlington have been breaking down stereotypes and making new friends--with people 7 times their age! Regular visits to local senior homes, in small groups, have offered a chance for students to share in activities, and to try their hand at taking photographic portraits. The results are remarkable--strong bonds, and beautiful artwork.

D. Completing the Technology Circuit

Erica Goodrich

Be part of an electrifying presentation that will spark your interest in the Technology Performance Assessment Tasks. You will witness how a unit on Magnetism and Electricity can become more *attractive* by using technology within the 5 computer elementary classroom. See how a multitude of technology including Tom Synder Productions, United Streaming, and Inspiration were deeply imbedded into the content. You can use this as a model for any integrated unit.

E. Technology and Multi-cultural Education: Vermont Students Meet the World

Veanne Maxwell

Exposing students in rural Vermont to other cultures around the World is a challenge that technology can help teachers to meet. This presentation will show one teacher's efforts to use technology to bring multi-cultural experiences to her students. The countries she has taught include Thailand, China, Japan, Indonesia, and Egypt. The tools she uses include email, classroom websites, commercial websites, web cams, webquests, and all manner of multi-media.

F. Authentic Learning through Technology: Public Service Announcements

Caty Wolfe

Research, data collection, writing, filming, editing... High school students with a mission and a topic collected data from their peers and from national sources on everything from drinking to West Nile Virus. They took that information and wrote a script for a 30 second Public Service Announcement. Students directed, filmed, and edited their final products.

G. Pod Casting in YOUR Classroom

Ellen Ferro and Bryan Schofield

Getting information out is now easier than ever. With creativity, good information to share and software, it's a few clicks away. During this session you will see how easy it is to share school news, classroom tidbits, whatever... It's not just a buzz word anymore....pod casting is the future. With more and more educational content being developed for and delivered through pod casting, educators and students have on-the-go access to audio ranging from curriculum-related content to professional development shows. Get the latest on Pod casting in education!

H. Don't be a Cyber-outlaw! A copy-cat-alog for educators.

Bill Wargo & Donna Iverson

If you are wondering just what Internet copying is legal and what is not, here is the place to find out. In addition, we will look at Google's ambitious book scanning project whose goal is "to unlock the wealth of information that is offline and bring it online". Right now, the Internet is the new Wild West. Learn how the law applies to this new frontier.

Session # 2 10:55 – 11:55

A. Wanna Wiki?: New Tools for Classroom Teachers- Part 2

Sandy Lathem

See above for description

B. Claymation Video Production Comes to Crossett Brook Middle School

Douglas A. Lombard

At Crossett Brook Middle School 8th grade exploratory music students composed music, art students designed claymation characters, sets and storyboards and Technology Education students shot, edited and produced "Claymation" videos that combined the art, music and technical components. This was an exciting project that held students interest throughout the year. A culminating "film festival will be held at the end of the school

year. Learn how we did the integration and how we used digital photos and video editing software to produce our “Claymation” videos. “Secret tips and tricks” will be revealed to all participants.

C. Integrating Technology in a Middle School Literature Program

Carole Goldsworthy

Technology has become an integral tool in my literature classes and works in conjunction with the novel to heighten student learning. From the creation of graphic organizers to the use of web quests, from exploring authors to creating three-dimensional objects (and much more), novels and technology work to integrate all content areas to enhance learning.

D. Ride the Wave of Technology Integration

Jenn Cummings and Erica Goodrich

Looking for a tropical getaway on a mid May day? Come ride the wave of integrating technology throughout a grades 3 and 4 Ocean Unit. You will join us for a guided tour of creating a unit through Backwards Design. During the voyage you will experience a variety of strategies to enhance a unit that is connected to the Vermont Grade Expectation including multimedia presentations done by students, video conferencing, and more. Catch the wave!

E. Reawaken Middle School Math

Karen Nee & John Downes

Essex Middle School is completing its first year of a heavy infusion of technology in mathematics instruction. Join us for a interactive review of our use of electronic white boards, visual math tools, and a resource database of thousands of activities. Explore its impact on whole class and small group instruction, online homework, and the almost limitless possibilities for differentiation. Come ready to play!

F. Empowering Digital Natives: Collaborative Technology Integration for the High School Classroom

Audrey Imhoff & Larissa Thompson

Do you want your students to be information literate, technology savvy, and excited about research and the creation of original work? An English teacher and Library Media Specialist will demonstrate how to effectively integrate technology into your high school curriculum to empower students in any content area. In this project, students use online databases and print resources for research, produce a timeline with a web tool, and create a brochure using Microsoft applications. We will discuss how you can use this collaborative project as a model to successfully integrate technology in your classroom. The technology used in this project was based on the Vermont Technology Grade Expectations and students' technology skills were assessed using the Vermont Technology Performance Assessment Tasks.

G. Free Software for the Classroom: The Open Source Connection

Dave Tisdell

Open source software is growing at a tremendous rate. It opens up all kinds of possibilities that may not have existed before because of (no) cost. The number, quality and kinds of applications continue to grow. Among the applications we will examine are, GIMP (a photo editor) OpenOffice 2.0 (An alternative to Microsoft Office) AbiWord (low overhead word processor), Scribus (Desktop Publishing), Dia (diagraming software), Firefox, and more. Want to learn about FREE software for your classroom? This session is for you!!

H. “Is My Sixth Grade Student Really On MySpace?”

Jan Fraga

This presentation is for teachers who want an awareness of how the Internet is being used by their students. It addresses both the risks they expose themselves to and the impact it has on bullying. Teachers will leave with some basic guidelines in advising both students about Internet safety and their parents.

Lunch – 12:00 1:00

Session # 3

1:10 – 2:10

A. Intrigued by their Own Likeness: Digital Self-Portraits – Part 1

Joy Kipp and Kathy Gallagher

What subject fascinates kids more than themselves? What is a user-friendly way to combine art and technology? This session will provide a demonstration of a simple way to manipulate photographs using digital photography and readily available digital imaging software. In the spirit of Andy Warhol's celebrity pop series, we will create a series of self-portraits that vary in effects and colors. Participants will have time for hands on participation. The techniques presented can be used for personal and professional use as well as in the classroom with students.

B. Telling Stories the Digital Way

Sandy Lathem

Heard of digital storytelling and want to know more? In this session, you'll see examples of digital stories and how teachers are using them in their classrooms. We'll look at a couple of examples and then turn our attention to how they are created. We'll explore the software you need (both on Apples and Windows), methods of construction, the “basics” of editing a story, and logistical concerns with digital storytelling projects. This session will provide a solid overview of this technique and provide a list of resources to help you learn more.

C. A One-to-One Laptop Initiative in a Small School: Impacts on Regular- and Special-Ed Classrooms

Paul Smith

Teachers in both regular and special education classrooms at Oak Grove School in Brattleboro will discuss the impact on learning of a three-year one-to-one laptop initiative for 3-6th graders. Some interesting similarities and differences have emerged in the course of implementing the project. Teachers will compare and contrast the hurdles and the successes of the program, currently in its second year.

D. *Knuffle Bunny* Reinvented

Linda Sommerville & Leah LaRock

Using the Red Clover book *Knuffle Bunny* by Mo Willems as inspiration, fifth and sixth grade students at Neshobe School in Brandon wrote stories, used digital photographs, and drew simple characters to create unique picture books. Addressing writing and technology standards, this project stretched students and staff alike. Find out how we did this, and what our biggest challenges turned out to be!

E. Movie Making: Bring Your Research Papers to Life

Bill Wight

Students love making movies. With music, still images and voice over straight out of their research papers, students can make a "Ken Burns" style documentary in just a few class periods. This project allows you to bring authentic use to students' research. Photostory 3 is simple and intuitive and produces professional looking movies. You'll receive project handouts, "how to" tips and practical advice from someone who has been down the road before.

F. InternEtional Education: Getting Connected with a Purpose

Gary Furlong

Do you ever wonder how to make better use of the Internet to connect your students with students in other countries? Do you wonder how the Internet can be used to build reading and writing skills? This workshop, taught by a Milton High School history teacher, will show you how the iEARN (International Education and Research Network) program can bring a global focus to your classroom. In iEARN, students collaborate with students from around the world on projects that are connected to curriculum and that enhance learning. We will discuss how iEARN works and supports the Vermont GE's and considerations for implementing the program in your classroom.

G. Content + Technology in the Text-less Classroom or, how I kicked my textbook habit

Eli Rosenberg

Get rid of your textbook! This session is a look at the future of teaching. We will go over the rationale for dumping textbooks, and then we will examine several student-tested ideas for how to teach quality content and process without ever opening a textbook. The presenter is a science teacher, but the lessons are applicable across the curriculum.

H. “How Do You Think Out of the Box When There is No Box?”

Greg Thweatt

Death, taxes, and technology changing ... all three are constants. With so much emphasis on integration, implementation, and professional development little time is given to the implication of change. This workshop will offer time to discuss how technology has itself impacted our view of change while brainstorming ways that can help foster growth in the learning process.

Session # 4 2:20 – 3:20

A. Intrigued by their Own Likeness: Digital Self-Portraits – Part 2

Joy Kipp and Kathy Gallagher

See description above

B. Electronic Portfolios: Tools for Success

Lauren Kelley Parren and Caroline Camara

Join a ninth grade teacher and the Mt. Abe portfolio coordinator to explore the power of creating electronic standards-based portfolios with high school students. We are noticing improved attitudes toward school and improved self-esteem when students recognize it is possible to meet state standards in a variety of ways. Eventually the portfolios are used to find employment or for the college application process. Student samples will be shown.

C. “The Daily Record of Albert Hunter”: Student use of Technology to Create an Interactive Local History Resource.

Jeff Hinde

This is an example of a classroom project that combines local history with modern information technology. In this project, students develop a local historical perspective through transcription of a primary source, a mini-research project and webpage development. Project outcomes include an interactive web-based resource and students with a better understanding and appreciation of their local history.

D. Graveyards, Wolf Tracks, and Technology?

Linda Horn & Jan Barsanti

Wouldn't you love to be in a 6th grade that visited a graveyard for data to do a Civil War unit, or in an after-school program that did a writing program based on going animal tracking in the snow? These two teachers have used the community, technology, and a lot of creative spirit to teach writing, science, and social studies with technology as the motivator. Yes, you can still have fun and address the VT Standards!

E. The Literacy-Tech Connection: Using Microsoft Publisher to Support Understanding of Informational Text

Beth Lane & Amy Truchon

How do a classroom teacher and technology integration specialist collaborate to enhance students' understanding of informational text? This session describes the integration of literacy and technology in the report writing (Standard 1.8) process. Join us as we describe the steps one 5th grade class took to learn about informational text characteristics and apply them to report writing using Microsoft Publisher.

F. Probing the Future: Using handheld data collectors in high school science classrooms

Steve Lynch & Katri LaPointe

This informative session will provide you with an opportunity view and try out data collectors with various probes, run sample experiments and import data into the computer. If you have been thinking about using electronic data collectors with your own students, or want to learn more about this technology, this session is for you. We will share our experiences integrating data collectors connected with Palm Pilots into the high school physics classroom. Both positive outcomes and challenges will be addressed. Example lesson plans and student feedback on integrating this technology will also be provided. The lessons provided align with the Vermont Technology Grade Expectations and students' technology skills were assessed using the Technology Performance Assessment Tasks.

G. Knocking Down the Walls: Connecting Your Classroom with the World

Katie Reen

Do you want to stretch the boundaries of your classroom? We will take an in-depth look at how to use the iEARN network to help your students develop an awareness of the global community and participate in making it a better place. This program's vision is to create opportunities for students from over 115 different countries to collaborate on projects, exchange ideas, and take action in grappling with some of our planet's most pressing issues.

H. Closing the Digital Divide - One Computer at a time

Robert Sargent, Bryant Patten

Schools trying to distribute donated computers to students for home use have yielded disappointing results until now. Using emerging technologies you can provide useful and exciting computers to children for free.

“Obsolete” computers have been transformed into useful workstations that matched the functionality of computers being used within the school. This talk will describe the process and provide the tools needed to do this in your own school - just add donated hardware!