TeleTeaching '96

Practising What We Preach

PROGRAMME CHAIR
Sandra Wills
University of Wollongong

TeleTeaching 96 is a Virtual Conference in conjunction with an on-site conference. Thousands, including students, will interact with the on-site delegates from their desktop or local access points internationally. Instead of traditional paper presentations and keynotes, there are seven half day interactive events, even a virtual social event and virtual exhibition.

On site delegates will participate from our dedicated 24 hour Apple internet Cafe at the Convention Centre, as well as visit Canberra schools, farms and universities. On site delegates may also bring their laptops.

EVENT 1: Monday Evening
INTERNET NASTIES: MYTH OR MISMANAGEMENT?
Rachelle Heller, George Washington University & Andrew Fluck, University of Tasmania

What happens when children get on the Internet? What role do schools and parents have in managing (and mismanaging) their access? Is the school dead yet? Is childhood in the information age a myth? Event One is an international collaboration: a television programme about social & moral dilemmas of the Internet will be broadcast on at least two continents prior to TeleTeaching 96, followed by a world wide moderated Internet discussion:
http://owl.qut.edu.au/oz-teachernet

Teachers and students from three schools in different parts of the world show the strategies that they have adopted to help manage students’ access to the Internet. Delegates in Canberra will participate in a one hour videoconference linkup between five continents and the six states of Australia to debate the topic between teachers, students, and leading Internet critics.

Australian teachers should contact their local Computer Education Group for more details about participation in their state.

EVENT 2: Tuesday Morning
CAN THE VIRTUAL UNIVERSITY DELIVER REAL LEARNING?
Anne Forster, UNSW Australian Graduate School of Management & Clark Quinn, OpenNet

This exciting interactive event, extending over several months, will challenge and extend our conceptions of university education. During the first phase, beginning in June, delegates will be directed to a specially developed Web site:
http://www2.openweb.net.au/TT96University

Contributions from well known specialists in ‘virtual universities’ and links to selected locations will illustrate the practices and theories under discussion:
• Tony Bates, University of British Columbia, Canada
• Linda Harasim, Simon Fraser University, Canada
• Roxanne Hiltz & Murray Tuross, New Jersey Institute of Technology, USA
• Patrick Guiton, Murdoch University, Australia
• Lin Thompson & Elizabeth Stacey, Deakin University, Australia
• Marc Eisenstadt, Open University, UK
• Betty Collis, University Twente, The Netherlands.

Issues raised through this activity will be followed up in a moderated online conference during July and August with your peers. Integrated with these activities will be discussions by video conference which will be included in the CD ROM based ‘proceedings’.

On site delegates in Canberra during September will participate in face-to-face discussion, with outcomes from discussion groups being made available online. You will also visit ANU, the Australian National University.

The varying modes of interaction involved in this event will provide all participants with a first hand experience of a broad range of the types of activities encompassed by the idea of a ‘Virtual University’.

On site delegates register now for the experience of a lifetime in Canberra. Virtual delegates start your virtual tour via our home page:
Michelle Williams, Queensland University of Technology & Michele Huston, Australian National University

In this project Teleteaching delegates will experience what it is like to participate in a educational telecommunications project from the students’ perspective. You will be couriers of a travelling mascot which is the centre of an educational telecommunications activity between children in Australia and at least one other country.

At the conference, delegates will find out about the Travel Buddy model for integrating telecommunications across curriculum activities and explore ways to help teachers become involved. You will have an opportunity to discuss the teacher professional development model inherent in the Travel Buddy concept and visit Canberra schools who are participating in this and other educational telecommunications programs. An IFIP mascot and a professional development pack to use with teachers will be provided.

This project is based on the Australian Travel Buddy Project which is one of a suite of educational telecommunications projects from the Oz-TeacherNet program. This program provides a support infrastructure for teachers including web based information, teaching materials, online mentors and project co-ordinators. Delegates wishing to undertake advanced readings can visit the web site: http://owl.qut.edu.au/ozteachernet/projects/travel-buddies/travel-buddies.html

During the conference you will be registering the name of the teacher and school with whom the buddy pack will be shared, so you should have selected a host school for the Australian buddy before coming to Teleteaching 96.

EVENT 4: Wednesday Evening
VIRTUAL LANDCARE
Glyn Rimmington, University of Melbourne

Think Global, Act Local! LandcareWeb is an international network linking people who are concerned with management of the world’s land resources.

Providing up to the minute information, LandcareWeb is a leading example of networks available to land management professionals.

A Web site is now under construction: http://www.agfor.unimelb.edu.au/LCweb/IFIP/landcare.html with links to electronic discussions including IRC, a List and MUD. The ultimate telelearning environment will be a role-playing exercise in the Catchment Metaverse in which anonymous Avatars represent the interests of real upper-catchment and lower-catchment land owners, a government official, the spirit of the land and a Martian. The Martian witnesses a conflict between the other players as they try to thrash out an equitable solution to this age-old problem.

Canberra delegates will not only be visiting local Landcare groups to see the results of the efforts in catchment management, but will also use videoconferencing and Internet Cafe resources to link with Landcare groups in Australia and overseas. An expert panel discussion will be moderated by a leading television personality. This will be packaged into a special television documentary. A simultaneous Australia-wide FM radio talkback discussion of the theme topic is also planned.

EVENT 5: Every Day and Wednesday Morning
VIRTUAL ENTERTAINMENT
Gary Ferguson-Smith, Apple Computer

Activity 1 - A local radio station is providing live on-line access to a broadcast event everyday. People, teachers, students in Australia, around the world and at the conference can participate in questions, requests and general discussion. C-U-See-Me users will be able to see as well as read.

Activity 2 - Live performance Wednesday morning - Participants, whether you are at the conference in person or through the Internet, can contribute a line to a song. Bill Neilson, a talented Australian musician and early adopter of computers in his repertoire, will perform the final world composition to delegates in the Internet Cafe. Connect live through a web page or C-U-See-Me software.

Activity 3 - Continuing throughout the conference a web page containing a variety of activities revolving around entertainment. This will include trivia quiz, general quiz, short story competition, one-liners, jokes, virtual pub crawl, virtual cocktail party and chatter.

EVENT 6: Every Day & Thursday Morning
VIRTUAL EXHIBITION
Ralph Leonard, Open Learning Technology Corporation

On-site commercial exhibitors at IFIP96 will not only exhibit in the Convention Centre but also on the web. Teleteaching 96 delegates are invited to add to the exhibition web site, either during the week you are in Canberra, or send it to us ahead of time. When you register, you will be sent the URL and contact details. You might contribute case studies, success stories, or curriculum materials. Virtual participants will be able to see the Virtual Exhibition as it grows but only on-site delegates will be able to build it.

EVENT 7: Thursday Afternoon
SPECIAL NEEDS OF SPECIAL PEOPLE
Doug Piper, New South Wales Department of School Education

On the Internet, all people are virtual! The Internet holds special possibilities for those whose access to education may traditionally have been made difficult because of race, sex, appearance, or disability etc. Put on your virtual face and join us in virtual space. September is Hearing Awareness Month so Event 7 involves an international school-based electronic project for the hearing impaired. Plus on-site delegates will visit a Canberra school and have ‘hands on’ with a range of access technologies such as switch access, voice input etc. A general overview of the needs of the various groups will be presented for discussion with virtual participants on the WWW page, culminating in a video conference with well known identities in the field.