

# SVETN NEWS

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## SVETN Tips

Students place a high value on the opportunity an SVETN class offers them to interact socially. Teachers can help their students have a more positive overall learning experience by recognizing and enhancing their opportunities for social interaction as part of the learning process.

Create opportunities for students to work together between sites as well as within single sites. During class students may communicate by telephone and fax as well as speaking directly to each other on the microphones. Students may also work together outside class by meeting face to face, by telephone, or online through email or one of the services such as Instant Messenger and ICQ.

## SVETN

### In this issue

ELMO	2
Teacher Features	2
Tom Meadows (cont'd)	3
Grant Project Update	3
Communication Problems	3
Pictures on svetn.org	3
Broadcast Schedule	4

## SVETN Broadcasts Fall Instructional Support Programs

SVETN's fall schedule of instructional support broadcasts has begun. A broadcast is the transmission of a live or recorded program to all SVETN classrooms simultaneously. A programming goal of SVETN this year is providing greater curriculum and instructional support to teachers. Through a cooperative arrangement with the Higher Education Center, SVETN has added instructional and professional support programming from the Annenberg/CPB Channel.

SVETN has selected programming from each of the four core content areas. Series scheduled are *Earth Revealed* and *World of Chemistry* for science, *Western*

*Tradition* for history, *Literary Visions* and *Voices and Visions* for English, and *Algebra: In Simplest Terms* for math.

In September SVETN provided descriptions of programs, a schedule of broadcasts for October/November, and information for taping to principals; high school English, math, science, and history department chairs; SVETN building facilitators; division superintendents; and directors of instruction or curriculum supervisors in each division. Current broadcast schedules, taping instructions, and related links are available at <http://www.svetn.org>. Broadcasts begin at 3:30 p.m. each Thursday and Friday.

See page 4 of this issue of SVETN News for the November/December broadcast schedule.

## "Who Ya Gonna Call?" Tom, of course!

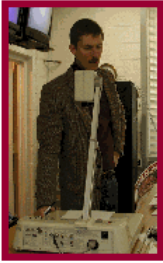
Okay, all SVETN teachers have experienced days when the technology gets balky, and the easiest explanation is ghosts or gremlins. It's on days like that we are all glad to have every SVETN teacher's ghostbuster, Tom Meadows. Mr. Meadows, a contractor providing technical services to SVETN, gets to the

scene of our big and small emergencies quickly. (cont'd on page 3)

Tom Meadows,  
Technical Services  
Contractor



## The Visual Presenter: AKA ELMO



Rod Gillespie

Ask almost anybody teaching in an SVETN classroom what she/he likes best about the classroom's equipment and the answer will come quickly and enthusiastically. "I love the ELMO!" ELMO is not the furry, red guy from Sesame Street; it is, in fact, the brand name of the visual presenter in all SVETN classrooms.

Similar to an overhead projector, ELMO's primary use for most SVETN teachers is as a document camera. A small camera located directly over the platform allows anything—three-dimensional objects, photographs, transparencies, paper, and so on—placed on the platform to appear on the monitor. The camera has at least 10X zoom allowing students to see even

a small object in close detail.

ELMO's capabilities make it a great teaching tool. Judy Rife, math teacher from Twin Valley HS, says she uses ELMO to have students share their calculus work with classmates at all sites. Linda Hunsaker, art teacher at Powell Valley HS, has students share their artwork with each other and also uses the black and white switch on ELMO to show students the importance of contrast in their art.

Because the computer is connected to ELMO, SVETN teachers can make PowerPoint presentations, bring in websites, and use software applications. Other equipment including video cameras and DVD players can also be connected to ELMO.

Teachers agree that every classroom, not just SVETN rooms, should have this versatile tool!

## Teacher Features: Doug Mullins and Donna Hale

In this issue of *SVETN News* we are again featuring two teachers who are delivering a class via SVETN. The first is **Doug Mullins**, a social studies teacher at Pound High School. This semester Doug's street law class includes students at Pound, Coeburn, and St. Paul High Schools.

Doug, in his fourth year teaching an SVETN class, credits the support of June Mullins, facilitator at Pound, and facilitators at the other sites with helping make his job a pleasure. Doug says

that the biggest positive for him has been "the opportunity to meet other students and to bring down some walls among competing schools." The class really is "one large class" and he "looks forward to opportunities to have students at still other schools." The bottom line for Doug is that he "really enjoys teaching a fiber optic class."



**Donna Hale**, also a social studies teacher, is our second featured teacher. From her Council High School base, Donna teaches AP American government and AP US history to students at Twin Valley and Hurley High School. Miss Donna (as her students affectionately refer to her) has enough energy and exuberance for her job to keep everyone around her hopping.

Donna, now in her fifth year on SVETN, describes her SVETN experiences as "a tremen-



dous amount of hard work but very rewarding" because of the opportunity to teach challenging advance placement classes to high quality students. "Those students make me feel at home in any school," she says.

Donna's advice to new SVETN teachers is "don't get hung up on the little things, and be flexible."

## Communication Problems at SVETN

In mid-September Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, where SVETN has its offices, like many others across the country was hit by a computer virus that played havoc with our email and internet services. SVETN was unable to update daily network class schedules or make any other changes or additions to our website. In addition, as network administrators have scrambled to get dozens of people back online, our email services were often interrupted.

In the midst of these problems, Debra Colley, SVETN program development coordinator, has been located in a temporary office space. This move caused occasional interruptions to her voice mail service.

SVETN apologizes for the inconveniences our communication problems may have created for many of you. We expect a return to full capability soon. Please bear with us!

## Student and Teacher Pictures Added to SVETN Website

Many of you may have seen either Bruce Mathews or Debra Colley in your schools lately with a digital camera in tow. SVETN is trying to add some current pictures of students and teachers to our website. For security and privacy, we want to make sure that we have everyone's permission and no names will be used to identify individual students.

To view many of the pictures SVETN representatives have taken, go to [www.svetn.org](http://www.svetn.org), click first on **Interactive Video** then **Pictures**.

## Tom Meadows (cont'd from p.1)

Sometimes the "gremlins" turn out to be so simple we feel a little silly calling him, but he never makes us feel silly. He just fixes or replaces the offending equipment and goes off to save someone else from disaster.

Tom works out of his home in Tazewell. To reach Tom SVETN teachers or facilitators may call him at (276) 988-6662 or contact SVETN at (276) 469-4020. If Tom is out, leave a detailed mes-

sage and a call-back number.

To make Tom's job easier and correct problems quickly, teachers should first check the troubleshooting manual or the handbook, pages 12-18. If the problem cannot be determined or corrected through these checks, then call on Tom Meadows.

**Thanks, Tom!**

## SVETN Begins Work on TIC Grant Project

In September the SVETN Executive Committee began the task of implementing the plans laid out in the US Department of Education Technology Innovation Challenge grant awarded to SVETN in July.

The grant calls for the formation of two advisory groups to serve as surrogates for the entire

SVETN. The first of these groups, the Technology Task Force, is hardware oriented and will look at transport and equipment. The other group, referred to in the grant as the Asynchronous Software Task Force, will investigate and advise the network in areas related to web-based teaching and curriculum.

The search has begun for a managing consultant for the project. The position has been advertised in regional newspapers and on SVETN's website.

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# SVETN



## November/December SVETN Broadcast Schedule

Broadcast Date	Program Title	Broadcast Date	Program Title
11/1/2001	21st Forum on Education (Live)	12/6/2001	Artful Resonance: Theme in Poetry
11/2/2001	First Sight: An Introduction to Literature	12/6/2001	Perspectives on Illusion: Setting and Staging Drama
11/2/2001	Ways of Seeing: Responding to Literature		
11/8/2001	Introduction to Algebra: In Simplest Terms	12/7/2001	The Vision quest: Myth and Symbolism in Drama
11/8/2001	Language of Algebra		
11/8/2001	Logarithmic Functions	12/7/2001	A Frame for Meaning: Myth and Symbolism in Drama
11/8/2001	Arithmetic Sequences and Series		
11/9/2001	Absolute Values	12/13/2001	Functions
11/9/2001	Linear Relations	12/13/2001	Composition
11/15/2001	The Byzantine Empire	12/13/2001	Linear Equations
11/15/2001	The Fall of Byzantium	12/13/2001	Complex Numbers
11/15/2001	Death of the Old Regime		
11/15/2001	The French Revolution		
11/16/2001	Revolution		
11/16/2001	Romanticism		
11/29/2001	Enlightened Despots		
11/29/2001	The Enlightenment		
11/30/2001	The Cold War		
11/30/2001	Europe and the Third World		
12/6/2001	Sacred Words: Elements of Poetry		
12/6/2001	A Sense of Place: Setting and Character in Poetry		

**Programming in many of these same series along with *World of Chemistry* and *Earth Revealed* will resume in January 2002.**

Look for other programming in the new year including the availability of video workshops. Workshops may be used by individuals or groups for professional development including the option of seeking graduate credit. For more information on workshops visit our website or contact Debra Colley at (276) 469-4063 or [dcolley@swcenter.edu](mailto:dcolley@swcenter.edu).

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