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Southwest Virginia Education and Training Network  
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# SVETN NEWS

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## SVETN Tips

### Snow Days

One of the biggest challenges for SVETN-delivered classes this time of year is the dreaded snow day or snow schedule. The **keys to getting through these days are planning and communication.**

Double check that your school division has established a way of reporting late starts and cancellations to the SVETN offices by phone (276-469-4045) or email ([ajyoung@svcenter.edu](mailto:ajyoung@svcenter.edu)) before 8 a.m. After receiving an official request directly from school personnel, SVETN will activate needed schedule changes. Schools with classes serving students in different school divisions should communicate directly with each other when either experiences an altered schedule.

Teachers must make sure students, facilitators, and administrators at remote sites know what to expect. Have a plan for what to do when only one site is out or operating an altered schedule, and communicate the plan to everyone affected. Remember that classes may be taped at remote sites in the event the home site is in class and one or more remote sites are not. Also, prepare useful activities for remote site students when the home site is out but one or more remote sites are in class.

Snow schedules and snow days happen, unfortunately they don't always happen everywhere at the same time. A little advance planning and plenty of communication among sites and with SVETN can eliminate frustrating delays for everyone.

**SVETN**  
 In this issue

## SVETN's College Partners: Serving Students at All Levels

The SVETN partnership includes all of the colleges serving southwest Virginia—Emory & Henry, UVA-Wise, Bluefield College, Virginia Intermont, Mountain Empire Community College, Southwest Virginia Community College, Virginia Highlands Community College, and Wytheville Community College as well as institutions with bases at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center—UVA, Virginia Tech, Radford, and ODU. Education and training will certainly play a key role in southwest Virginia's economic future. Recognizing this fact, these institutions use SVETN to enhance their service to the region's students from high school to undergraduate to graduate level.

Many high school students participate in community college classes through SVETN. These dual-credit

may be taught directly from the colleges using their on-site facilities and faculty or by adjunct faculty teaching from one of the high school sites. Either way SVETN makes it easier for students to begin their college education while still in high school even if they are many miles from a college campus.

In fall 2001 SVETN's college partners served 320 students with classes delivered via SVETN. (This number does not include students enrolled in dual-credit courses at the high schools.) The colleges' priority time on SVETN is afternoon and evening, but whenever possible classes, including dual-credit courses directly from the college, may be scheduled during the day.

Students receiving classes at remote sites most often note the  
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through SVETN. These dual-credit classes (so called because students may receive credit from both the college and the high school they attend)

See page 4 for a complete schedule of college classes available via SVETN for Spring 2002.



MECC dual-credit students at Twin Springs High School

note sites most often note the (cont'd on p.2)

## Spring Broadcasts

Broadcast of SVETN's instructional support programming resumed on January 4. Through January the broadcasts will follow the schedule provided to SVETN partners in October. Mailed in mid January, an updated schedule for the remainder of the school year is already available on SVETN's website (<http://www.svetn.org>). Broadcasts will continue on Thursday and Friday afternoons between 3:35 and 5:35 p.m. except as indicated on the schedule. Any changes to the schedule will be posted on the website.

Many schools have contacted SVETN about missing previous broadcasts. To accommodate these schools and others, the spring schedule will include a repeat of 3 series: *World of Chemistry*—February 8-March 1, *Algebra: In Simplest Terms*—March 8-March 21, and *Literary Visions*—April 11-April 25.

**Note: Check the latest schedule for several new titles in addition to those broadcast earlier.** ♦

## Teacher Features: Bill Fiess and Mike Strouth

In this issue of *SVETN News* we are featuring two instructors providing classes to college students. **Bill Fiess**, an instructor in the math/science/health technologies division at Southwest Virginia Community College, is an experienced SVETN instructor having taught classes each semester since SVCC began participating in SVETN in 1994. He has taught mainly pre-calculus to SVCC students at 3 or 4 sites as well as a seminar for teachers on the use of the TI-83 calculator

Bill considers SVETN classes "a really nice opportunity for people who live far away" from SVCC campus. By offering classes this way SVCC can "insure that the same material is taught as in on-campus classes." He also finds interactive TV "an excellent mode for teaching, even better than traditional blackboard teaching in some ways because TV rivets attention to what you're doing." Thanks Bill and keep up the good work



Bill Fiess

as a seminar for teachers on the use of the TI-83 calculator.



Mike Strouth

Our second featured teacher is an SVETN novice but a veteran teacher.

**Mike Strouth** has taught social studies and math at Clintwood High School for more than 20 years and

has been an adjunct history instructor for Mountain Empire Community College for 10 years.

Mike is currently teaching a 6-hour dual-credit US history class for students at Clintwood, Haysi, and Ervinton. Dickenson County began

ways because TV rivets attention to what you're doing." Thanks, Bill, and keep up the good work for the students of southwest Virginia. ♦

looking at this service especially but not exclusively for its Virginia Tech-bound students. Virginia Tech has added a US history survey course as a graduation requirement for all students—with a recommendation that students complete this requirement through dual-credit with one of Virginia's community colleges.

Mike says of his first ITV teaching experience: "You *can* teach an old dog new tricks. I know we'll be fine. I want (my students) to learn; I just want to do a good job for the kids." We know you will, Mike! Welcome to SVETN! ♦

## Scheduling SVETN Classes for Fall 2002

Stores begin putting out their summer clothes as soon as they take down the Christmas decorations. It may seem a little strange, but getting ready for the next season is necessary preparation if they want to be successful. Retailers, however, have nothing on high school guidance counselors and others involved in scheduling. As soon as the semester 1 grades are recorded, it's time to begin the task of planning the next year's schedule.

Meeting the academic needs of all students is, of course, the primary goal of each schedule planner. However, they must work within practical limits of available faculty. Schedule planners can expand those limits

through effective use of SVETN to meet the needs of students and teachers. While it may not be practical to schedule a class for 3 or 4 students at one site, using the SVETN connections to link similar numbers at 2, 3, even 4 sites creates opportunity for students at all of those sites in a practical way. Unlike traditional classes, an SVETN class need not be "full" to offer it to students. In fact, one of the advantages of SVETN classes is they allow schools to meet the needs of small numbers of students while still using staff efficiently.

To use SVETN facilities most effectively, schedule planners should look not only at what their students need but also at classes at their schools desirable to other schools. ?

## Maximizing SVETN Classrooms

In addition to scheduling high school and college classes, SVETN classrooms can meet the needs of students, teachers, and others in the school and community in various ways.

Holding **meetings via SVETN** is one good way to utilize the facilities. **School personnel** within a division can reduce travel and time by conducting meetings during the 30 minutes or more each morning and afternoon when they are

An interesting option for SVETN classrooms is use as a **production studio** for a daily TV newscast presented by students. Via SVETN a newscast can include reporters from other schools or a monthly or weekly news program delivered to all division schools through SVETN and an internal distribution system (e.g., Channel One) then taped for delivery on a local public access channel.

conducting meetings during the 30 minutes or more each morning and afternoon when they are usually already connected or for longer periods by request. Because the connections are secure and private, even sensitive meetings may be conducted in this way. **Community groups** may also book SVETN facilities as long as the school or colleges are not scheduled to use the site.

The before- and after-school connections are also perfect opportunities for **teachers** to schedule **meetings with students** or **among student groups** at remote sites. This time could be used for taking make-up tests, providing extra instruction, **meeting with parents**, holding group study sessions, working on group projects, or conducting other class-related activities.

lic access channel.

SVETN encourages schools to share interesting creative ways to maximize SVETN facilities. The SVETN classroom is an amazing tool for serving students, teachers, and the community in a wide variety of ways. ?

## New SVETN Classroom On Line

Grayson County's new SVETN classroom is now operational. On January 9 while students enjoyed a snow day, SVETN tested the equipment in Grayson County's new interactive television classroom and everything is a go! Grayson County students will soon be sharing classes with other SVETN partners. Welcome, Blue Devils! ?

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# SVETN



## Spring 2002 College Classes Via SVETN

<u>College</u>	<u>Course</u>	<u>Instructor</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Sites</u>
UVA-W	COMP 350	Grable	TTh	12:30-1:45	UVA-W to SWHEC
UVA-W	LIBR 310	Chafin	Tu	4:30-7:15	UVA-W to SWHEC
UVA-W	EDUC 482	Cantrell	M	5-7:45	UVA-W to SWHEC
UVA-W	PSYC 330	Horton	Th	6-8:45	UVA-W to SWHEC
SVCC	ACC 222	Imel	M	6-9	SVCC to Castlewood, Grundy, & Twin Valley

SVCC	ACC 222	Imel	M	6-9	SVCC to Castlewood, Grundy, & Twin Valley
SVCC	ACC 262	Davis	Tu	6-8:40	SVCC to Tazewell & Grundy
SVCC	BUS 122	Bevins	W	6-8:40	SVCC to Twin Valley, Tazewell, & Castlewood
SVCC	MATH 164	Fiess	Th	6-8:40	SVCC to Grundy & Tazewell
WCC	ART 101	Peter	W	4:10-6:50	WCC to Carroll Co. HS & Marion Sr. HS
WCC	CHD 210	Benson	M	6:30-9:10	WCC to Carroll Co. HS & Marion Sr. HS
WCC	CHM 01	Whalen	Tu	6-9:30	WCC to Carroll Co. HS & Marion Sr. HS
WCC	SPA 102	Walker	Th	6-9:30	WCC to Carroll Co. HS & Marion Sr. HS
WCC	STD 100	Thomas	M	4:45-6:25	WCC to Carroll Co. HS & Marion Sr. HS
UVA	EDIS 589	Colley	Th	4-8	(specific sites not yet announced; class begins 1/24/02)

**This list does NOT include dual enrollment classes taught at the high schools. For a complete list of all classes taught via SVETN, see our website at <http://www.svetn.org/classes.htm>**