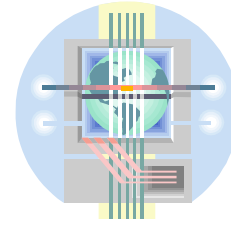


SVETN Fiber Wire

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA EDUCATION
AND TRAINING NETWORK



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SVETN's PD Initiative Advisory Council

SVETN and Professional Development

SVETN offered the first of what is expected to be a regular series of Professional Development workshops on March 11. The workshop, *"So That's How the SOL Test Looks"*, was presented by Pam Lester and Barbara Gillespie, library media specialists from Tazewell County. Participants were given step-by-step directions to enable them to construct presentations to familiarize their students with the SOL testing format. The group included educators from several of the thirteen counties SVETN currently spans. They met initially in the fiber optic classrooms in Richlands High School, Haysi High School, Chilhowie High School and Rural Retreat High School. After their first meeting participants were given instruction, links and lessons via [SVETN's ANGEL software](#). Each student was required to submit a Power Point presentation of at least 25 slides including released test items or other SOL preparation materials at the last group meeting (via SVETN classrooms) on March 25. Each person who successfully completed the workshop received the equivalent of 15 re-certification points.

The Virginia Department of Education offered a workshop as a collaborative effort with SVETN. This professional development workshop was offered entirely via ANGEL. *"Poetry for English/Language Arts Teachers"*, an online poetry session, was recommended for secondary English teachers and technology specialists. The purpose of this session was to give teachers ideas to use when teaching poetry to their students. In this mini lesson, teachers were asked to define, read, write, evaluate and discuss poetry with their students and colleagues. Activities included a poetry "pre-quiz" to help participants clarify their definitions of poetry, readings from Edgar Lee Masters' *Spoon River Anthology*, writing and sharing sessions from the participants, and a "post-quiz" where participants shared their "re-definitions of poetry". The teachers participated in activities and discussions online at their convenience at least three times per week each week of the session. Dale Svor a teacher from Mills E. Godwin High School in Henrico County was the presenter for the workshop, which began on March 21 and ended on April 16th.

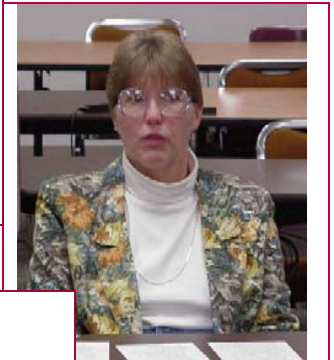
An Advisory Council recently was formed to guide SVETN in the selection of PD topics. See page 3 for names of the council members. Watch www.svetn.org for information on future professional development workshops.



UVA's College at Wise Presents Iraq Discussion with High School Audience

Joe Scolnick, Jr. and Elizabeth Steele with UVA's College at Wise led a discussion on aspects of the war in Iraq on Thursday April 24, 2003 with area high school students. The history of the region including political, economic, military and cultural aspects was reviewed. The speakers then answered questions from the students. Included in the discussion were students at Clintwood High School, Twin Valley High School and Grundy High School. The sites were connected using their SVETN classrooms. The event was a stimulating and thoughtful experience for high school students. Many are eager to schedule another discussion before the school year ends. Interested? Let us know!

Joe Scholnick, Jr. has offered courses in international relations, American foreign policy, and American national security policy, among many others, at UVA's College at Wise. He is a former naval officer who served during the Cuban missile crisis. Later, he was a visiting professor at the Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Alabama.



Elizabeth Steele is an administrator at UVA's College at Wise. She is a historian who has offered courses in American diplomatic history, the Middle East, and the Soviet Union/ Russia.



LITTLE SWITCH PERMITS BIG SWITCH

TIC Grant Makes H.323 Installation Possible

As part of the TIC Grant, H.323 equipment was purchased to install and evaluate. Previously, sites were selected for H.323 equipment based on SVETN member applications and criteria established by the Technology Task Force. The week of March 31~April 4 was busy for SVETN staff, member schools and the crew from Seneca Communications. Schools slated to receive H.323 equipment were busy with preparation, installation and testing the systems upon completion of installation. A total of 7 systems were installed throughout the week. Installation began on Monday afternoon at Grundy High School with Haysi High School's installation on Monday evening. On Tuesday, April 1st J.I. Burton and Appalachia High School were updated, and on Wednesday, the crew traveled to Patrick Henry High School and late in the afternoon began on Gate City High School. Gate City High School's installation was completed on Thursday and on Friday Carroll County High School joined the finished list. A three-position NETWORK SELECTOR SWITCH (see photo above) was installed in the SVETN classrooms that enables the user to connect the classroom in three ways-conventional SVETN connection over fiber-optic lines with up to three other classrooms, a two-way mode using H.323 connection over the Internet to connect to one other similarly equipped classroom, and a combination of the H.323 and up to three remote fiber-optic classrooms.

¾ Advanced Geometry

Team Members: Richard Slate, team leader, Stacey Whitaker, Rebecca Dye, Lisa Henley, Ferrell Deel, Kevin Minion and Melissa Dalton

¾ The Unique Ecology of South west Virginia

Team Members: Pat Johnson, team leader, Diana Withen, Bill Cawood, Betty Addington, Beth Fairbanks, Karen Hartsock and David Sexton

¾ Journalism in Appalachia

Team Members: Leesa Wood, team leader, Lynn Campbell, Debbie Raines, Karen Blevins, Christine Christianson, Leslie Horne, Selina Hillenberg, Shannon Phillips

FYI

SVETN's Professional Development Initiative Advisory Council

- ‰ Pat Johnson, Wise County Schools
- ‰ Joe Bean, Wythe County Schools
- ‰ Lynn Campbell, Tazewell County Schools
- ‰ Tom Cash, Southwest Virginia Community College
- ‰ Danny Dixon, Scott County Schools
- ‰ Foney Mullins, Washington County Schools
- ‰ Lorraine Turner, Russell County Schools

FYI

SVETN needs your schedules for summer and fall semesters. Please send them to us as soon as they are available.

FYI

The SVETN Fiber Weis available on-line only.
Feel free to share it with your friends and colleagues.