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Special points of interest:

- **Changing Times, Changing Tools**
- **ICE History**
- **Teri Rossman, ICE Educator of the Year**
- **Pat Versluis & Cindy Arkebauer, Tech 2009**
- **Bookshare**
- **Rick Miers, Veteran's Project**
- **Web Safety Bill**

Inside this issue:

Changing Times, Changing Tools	2
RICE Information	2
Writing Wikis	3
ICE History	3
Teri Rossman	4
Pat Versluis & Cindy Arkebauer, Tech 2009	4
Bookshare	5
Rick Miers, Veteran Project	5
Tech 2009	6
NECC 2009	6
Web Safety Bill	7
Web Resources	7



Spring Time for Renewal and Reflection

March arrives with its bluster and rain and reminds me that it's time to clean and organize. Fortunately this follows the ICE Conference which always provides my huge energy boost. Add to the mix a timely spring Break and I have the opportunity to pause, reflect, and evaluate what I have that works, what needs repair and improvement, and of course, what needs to be discarded.

This newsletter includes some notes of ideas and information I found at the ICE conference of particular value to me. Podcasts of Dr. Yong Zhao, the Bookshare resources, and the links to free and open source software. These resources are guides for me to examine my classroom practices and question which activities and resources are working well for all of my students. Where do my lessons work best? What new tools might engage my students more completely? Then, which elements did not work so well? Can they be tweaked? Or, should they be completely redesigned? Now I have a list for the summer because Spring Break never provides enough time for all that is needed.

March also marks the time to prepare for the last RICE meeting of this school year. How wonderful to see so many RICE members at the ICE Conference in St. Charles! I hope everyone can come and share their own personal best sessions from the conference. For those who could not attend, this is an opportunity to access the ideas and resources without the hassles of driving to St. Charles. This is also a great opportunity to discuss those topics we wish to explore more completely at next year's RICE meetings. Consider volunteering to share your skills and knowledge at a future RICE meeting. All of these ideas are needed for our annual planning meeting in June. If you cannot attend the meeting on April 1, be sure to visit the RICE blog (<http://ice.typepad.com/rice/>) and share your ideas.

While March marks the end of winter and the beginning of spring, it signals the opportunity to plant new ideas and resources for our students and ourselves. RICE is a continuing source of my personal seeds for new classroom activities. All of this would not be possible without the riches provided by all of you-the members of RICE. Thank you all for the sharing and talents you provide to me and RICE. I hope to see you all at the meeting on April 1.



“Specifically, thousands of accomplished educators are now writing blogs about teaching and learning, bringing transparency to both the art and the science off their practice.”



Rock Island Area Computing Educators meets 4 times a year!

Changing Times, Changing Tools

Times have changed in two significant ways, however, since Elmore began describing the hostile learning environments that have often held schools back. First, there's a new emphasis on the importance of collaborative learning among members of close-knit teams in schools. School leaders are beginning to believe in the human capacity for their faculties and are structuring opportunities for teachers to reflect on instruction together. These joint efforts are targeted and specific, increasing educators' motivation and engagement.

Second, digital tools now help fulfill Elmore's desire for fresh "portals through which new knowledge about teaching and learning can enter schools. "Specifically, thousands of accomplished educators are now writing blogs about teaching and learning, bringing transparency to both the art and the science of their practice. In every content area and grade level and in schools of varying sizes and from different geographic locations, educators are

actively reflecting on instruction, challenging assumptions, questioning policies, offering advice, designing solutions, and learning together. And all this collective knowledge is readily available for free.

With the investment of a bit of time and effort, I've found a group of writers to follow who expose me to more interesting ideas in one day than I've been exposed to in the past 10 years of costly professional development. Professional growth for me starts with 20 minutes of blog browsing each morning, sifting through the thoughts of practitioners whom I might never have been able to learn from otherwise and considering how their work translates into what I do with students.

This learning has been uniquely authentic, driven by personal interests and connected to classroom realities. Blogs have introduced a measure of differentiation and challenge to my professional learning plan that had long been

by: Bill Ferriter

missing. I wrestle over the characteristics of effective professional development with Patrick Higgins (<http://chalkdust101.wordpress.com>) and the elements of high quality instruction for middle grades students with Dina Strasser (<http://theline.edublogs.org>). Scott McLeod (www.dangerouslyirrelevant.org) forces me to think about driving school change from the system level; and Nancy Flanagan (http://teacherleaders.typepad.com/teacher_in_a_strange_land) helps me understand the connections between education policy and classroom practice. John Holland (<http://circle-time.blogspot.com>) and Larry Ferlazzo, Brian Crosby, and Alice Mercer (<http://inpractice.edublogs.org>) open my eyes to the challenges of working in high-needs communities.

RICE INFORMATION

Rock Island Area Computing Educators (<http://chapters.iceberg.org/rice>) meets 4 times a year, in a workshop setting to share, learn, and support each other in new technology experiences. Membership is open to anyone who works in the area of education or who is a pre-service student. A membership form is included in this newsletter. There is no membership fee to the local

chapter. You only need to be a member of the state organization, Illinois Computing Educators (<http://www.iceberg.org>). For more information contact Ginger Long at ginger.long@risd41.org

Atomic Learning subscription is one of the benefits of being a RICE member. This is a great utility that will help teach you the basics of using any software. Another benefit is a free subscription to Star Online. For more

information on how to use STAR-Online modules, please view the Site Tours on the home page (www.star-online.org). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the STAR-Online staff at 309.298.2444.

Anyone is welcome to attend a meeting without belonging to learn more about us. As always, CPDUs are available!

Contact Nancy Licko for more information nlicko@gmail.com

Writing Wikis

If you've just begun to dip your toes into the digital waters, work with your peers to create a collaborative writing wiki. Wikis are editable Web sites and like blogs, they require little technical skill to master. Wiki toolbars look just like those in common word-processing programs; when you're finished saving contributions to a wiki page, your work is automatically posted online.

The difference between a wiki and a blog is that wikis are designed for collaboration among groups of users. Anyone with the shared wiki password can edit the content on a wiki at any time. Wikis also provide discussion boards for every page, enabling users to engage in ongoing conversations about their developing project. Some teams of teachers-such as the teachers creating Digitally Speaking at <http://digitallyspeaking.pbwiki.com> - use wikis to reflect on the characteristics of effective instruction. Others use them to create warehouses of materials among teachers working in the same content area (<http://cesa5mathscience.wikispaces.com>) or a source for teachers and teams creating entire classroom textbooks

(<http://anatowiki.wetpaint.com/?t=anon>).

Consider finding a few peers to write about teaching and learning together. Divide your topic of interest into subtitles or sections. Teachers could be responsible for creating content for their area of expertise; they could generate key ideas, add links to external resources, upload appropriate documents, or embed interesting videos. Then allow users who are fluent with language to polish your final text. Find members who are sticklers for spelling and grammar and turn them loose.

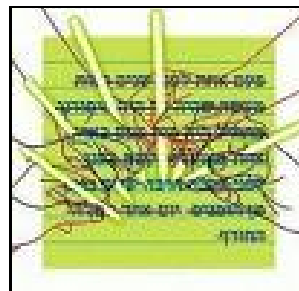
On a wiki, the writing process is far less intimidating than on a blog because you're not responsible for an entire selection all by yourself. Instead, you'll reflect with colleagues-which in and of itself is a powerful form of professional growth.

Several wiki services are available:

- ◆ PB Wiki (<http://pbwiki.com>): This is quickly becoming one of the most popular wiki services for educators because it's just plain easy to use. For an example of PB Wiki in action, check out Stay Current at <http://staycurrent.pbwiki.com>

by: Bill Ferriter

- ◆ Wikispaces (www.wikispaces.com): This is one of the first wiki services that educators embraced. As a result, there are literally thousands of Wikispaces that you can look to for samples of what's possible. For an example of Wikispaces, check out Digiteen at <http://digiteen.wikispaces.com>
- ◆ Wet Paint (www.wetpaint.com): This is one of the newest wiki services available to educators, but it's also one of the most intriguing. With an emphasis on tools for collaboration and professional templates, Wet Paint wikis will make you look good. For an example of Wet paint in action, check out the Anatowiki at <http://anatowiki.wetpaint.com>



“The difference between a wiki and a blog is that wikis are designed for collaboration among groups of users !”

ICE: A Brief History



In 1986, a group of approximately 30 educators met to discuss the possibility of forming a statewide organization for computer-using educators. Since its inception, ICE has steadily grown. The organization has continually expanded its membership and has shown leadership in encouraging the development, growth and use of technology in all facets of the educational process. ICE has come a long way in a short time. It will continue to grow and change based on the needs of its members. The dedication and energy that has characterized ICE in the past will continue to make it the viable, important organization that it is today.



Teri Rossman: 2009 Technology Administrator Educator of the Year Award



“Each year many outstanding ICE members are nominated for this distinguished award.”

Teri Rossman from Spring Valley Dist #99 in Spring Valley, IL, has been selected as the 2009 winner of the Illinois Computing Educators (ICE) “Educator of the Year Award.” Mrs. Rossman is the Technology Director for the Spring Valley School Dist. #99 in Bureau County.

Each year ICE selects one educator in each of two categories—one teacher and one technology administrator, for this prestigious award. Educators are nominated for this award by colleagues, fellow teachers, students, and school administrators who feel that the nominee has made outstanding contributions to the integration of technology and the improvement of teaching and learning in their school or district. Once nominated, candidates must complete an extensive application process, and are then reviewed, evaluated, and scored on rubrics by members of the ICE educator of the Year Committee. Selections are then confirmed by the ICE Executive Board for final approval.

Teri is a tireless advocate for appropriate technology use. She successfully runs all aspects of the

district technology program, implementing the technology curriculum, staff development, managing the budget and planning. She has challenged both students and teachers alike to go beyond the walls of the classroom.

She has been piloting a “paperless” classroom where students complete and turn in coursework electronically, thus allowing students to learn and use technologies as an integral part of their curriculum. She also has been helping teachers take part in a collaborative project where the projects are posted on a wiki and the students have the opportunity to communicate with classes from all over the world. In addition, she has set up a collaborative between the district’s 6th grade writing class with another 6th grade writing class where they plan to exchange writing samples for peer reviewing.

This year Teri offered a non-graded, not-for-credit class during study hall to 7th and 8th graders in which students are learning animation, video game making, Sketchup and design, 3D graphics, and photo editing. She also

set up a Moodle as a course management system and now the district is offering classes that ordinarily could not previously be offered. Currently, students are taking classes in Digital Photography, but soon can expect some foreign language classes such as Spanish, French, and Italian extending the students learning opportunities.

Each year many outstanding ICE members are nominated for this distinguished award. Nominations not only recognize the efforts of a nominee, but also show that they are valued and appreciated by their fellow educators. ICE is truly grateful to the many outstanding nominees each year, and for all that they do for children in Illinois schools.

Mrs. Rossman was presented with her award at the opening General Session of the ICE State Conference, held February 24-27, 2009 at the Pheasant Run Resort and Convention Center in St. Charles, IL.

Pat Versluis, and Cindy Arkebauer, to present at Tech 2009

Pat Versluis, 8th Grade Math Teacher at Glenview Middle School will be taking students to the Tech 2009 in Springfield at the State Capital Building on April 30, 2009.

Students will demonstrate how technology is being used in the middle school classroom. Students will demonstrate projects they have created in their math and social studies classes. They will show short videos, PowerPoints, and documents created using Microsoft Publisher, Word, and Excel.

Glenview Middle School was a recipient of an “Enhancing Education through Technology Grant” supported by the 36 Senate District, Michael Jacobs, and 71 Representative, Mike Boland in 2008.

Cindy Arkebauer, 3rd Grade Teacher at Eugene Field, Rock Island, IL will be taking students to the Tech 2009 in Schaumburg, IL on April 24, 2009.

Students have been using laptops, and writing tablets provided by a technology grant to enhance their learning experiences and increase

their achievement. Students have become proficient at word processing, entering and maintaining formulas, and presenting to their classmates. Students maintain all of their information in digital data folders to share with parents.

Eugene Field was a recipient of an “Enhancing Education Through Technology Grant” supported by the 36 Senate District, Michael Jacobs, and 72 Representative Patrick Verschoore.

Cindy previously presented in 2004 & Pat was accepted to present in 2008.



Bookshare - An Amazing Special Education Resource

Jim Fructerman, The Friday morning keynote speaker at the ICE conference, presented the history and development of the Bookshare program. Bookshare is an online library of accessible media for readers with print disabilities.

- ◆ Bookshare is free for all U.S. students with qualifying disabilities. Student memberships are currently funded by an award from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP).
- ◆ Bookshare dramatically increases the accessibility of books. Bookshare believes that people with disabilities deserve the same ease of access to books and periodicals that people without disabilities enjoy.
- ◆ A searchable online library. Bookshare offers more than 45,000 digital books, textbooks, teacher-recommended reading, periodicals and assistive technology tools.
- ◆ Readers of all ages. Bookshare offers affordable membership, unlimited library privileges and a community of Members, Volunteers, parents, publishers and authors.

Bookshare provides the world's largest online library of accessible reading materials for people with print disabilities. Individuals can sign up for membership and access the library on their own. Organizations that serve individuals with print disabilities (schools, libraries, community centers, etc.) can sign up and provide access to their students or clients.

A Bookshare membership offers unlimited access to accessible books, textbooks, newspapers and magazines. Additionally, free access technology makes it easy to read books with a computer.

Through an award from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), Bookshare offers free memberships to U.S. schools and qualifying U.S. students.

For more information, and how to confirm that you qualify, please check the Bookshare Web Site www.bookshare.org

Rick Miers, Veteran's Project

Rick Miers, is a History teacher at Rock Island High School, Rock Island, IL and has been working on this project. Please read information regarding this project below:

The Illinois World War II Memorial Board, the Area 5 Learning Technology Center, and their partners have created a statewide digital project—the Illinois WWII Memorial Board Classroom Project.

The two main goals of the Illinois Classroom Project are:

1. To provide students the opportunity, training and equipment to do personal interviews and capture World War II Veterans' experiences organized around an inquiry-based, digital-story telling learning experience.
2. To provide students with authentic connections which foster a deeper understanding and knowledge of the overall purpose and sacrifices made by Illinois WWII survivors, their families and their communities.

The combination of inquiry and digital storytelling of Illinois WWII era experiences are introducing students and their instructors to new avenues of study. In addition, they are acquiring a personal appreciation for the contributions and dedication of the "Greatest Generation" to the common cause of maintaining democracy and freedom worldwide.

Please visit our WWII Digital Stories and WWII Archive Gallery to experience Illinois WWII Veterans' memories.

For more information and to view Rick's pages please go to <http://rockislandschools.org/blogs/rmiers/category/ww-ii-veterans-project-info>



"Individuals can sign up for membership and access the library on their own.

Organizations that serve individuals with print disabilities can sign up and provide access to their students or clients."





"Clarence Fisher has been a classroom teacher for the past 15 years. He blogs professionally at remoteaccess.typepad.com with his class at thinwalls.edublogs.org and has spoken at conferences worldwide."



**NECC 2009 Conference
Washington D.C.
June 28 - July 1, 2009**



Insight and Innovation for Technology Leaders

TECH FORUM

April 24, 2009
Hyatt Regency Woodfield
Schaumburg, IL



Tech Forum Midwest
Friday, April 24, 2009
7:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Hyatt Regency Woodfield
1800 East Golf Rd
Schaumburg, IL 60173

Brought to you by the team behind, T & L magazine and the techlearning.com web site, Tech Forum represents "Tech & Learning in action."

Now in its 7th season, this high-powered, one-day event provides K-12 decision makers with thought-provoking content on the hottest topics of the day in education technology.

Program Topics Include:

- ◆ Leadership Skills
- ◆ Web 2.0 Best Practices
- ◆ Learning with Wikis
- ◆ Visual Literacy
- ◆ Policy, Safety and Social Networking

Attendee's will:

- ◆ Gain a year's worth of insight and empowerment in one day
- ◆ Explore groundbreaking education technology solutions, in their own "back yard"
- ◆ Listen and Learn from renowned K-12 technology experts and innovators

Audience:

District and Building-Level Administrators; Technology Directors; Technology Coordinators; Librarians and Media Specialists; Mentor Teachers; Board of Education members & other education staff involved in Technology planning.

Keynote Speaker
Clarence Fisher

Flight Plans: From Here to There We talk about twenty first century classrooms like we are gazing off into the future. But its 2009 and the 21st century is getting ready to pass us by. What are we doing to change the way classrooms operate? How are we helping our students to be global thinkers who can bridge ideas and cultures? Join award-winning educator Clarence Fisher as he describes the 21st century classroom as it could be.

For more information and to register go to:

<http://archive.techlearning.com/events/techforum/midwest09/>

NECC 2009 Celebrating 30 Years of Ed Tech Vision

Mark your calendars, budget, and plan now for the 30th annual National Educational Computing Conference. Join more than 18,000 teachers, technology coordinators, library media specialists, teacher educators, administrators, policy makers, industry representatives, and students from all over the world who'll gather June 28-July 1, 2009 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center.



Sunday, June 28—Opening
Keynote Malcolm Gladwell

A British-born Canadian journalist, author, and pop sociologist, Malcolm Gladwell, is based in New York City and has been a staff writer for the *New Yorker* since 1996. As part of ISTE's

series on digital citizenship, Gladwell will deliver his unique perspective on the ways that intentional practice today influences expert-development of the future.

For more information on this opportunity and/or to register go to

<http://center.uoregon.edu/ISTE/NECC2009/program/>

Web Safety Bill

105 ILCS 5/27–13.3 Sec. 27-13.3 Internet safety education curriculum bill.

Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, a school district must incorporate into the school curriculum a component on Internet safety to be taught at least once each school year to students in grades 3 or higher. The school board shall determine the scope and duration of this unit of instruction. The age-appropriate unit of instruction may be incorporated into the current courses of study regularly taught in the district's schools, as determined by the school board.

The Law recommends that the unit of instruction include the following topics:

1. Safe and responsible use of social networking websites, chat rooms, electronic mail, bulletin boards, instant messaging, and other means of communication on the Internet.
2. Recognizing, avoiding and reporting online solicitation of students, their classmates, and their friends by sexual predators.
3. Risks of transmitting personal information on the Internet.
4. Recognizing and avoiding unsolicited or deceptive communications received online.
5. Recognizing and reporting online harassment and cyber-bullying.
6. Reporting illegal activities and communications on the internet.
7. Copyright laws on written materials, photographs, music, and video

Web Resources

ICE Keynote Videos

Dr. Yong Zhao: Systemic Change

<http://myiltce.ning.com/video/dr-yong-zhao-systemic-change>

Video excerpts from ICE Conference Keynote address.

More podcasts of Dr. Yong Zhao from Public School Insights

<http://www.publicschoolinsights.org/node/2260>

Open Source

Open Office <http://openoffice.com> - office suite

Gimp <http://www.gimp.org> - photo editing

Audacity <http://audacity.sourceforge.net> - audio recording

Blender <http://www.blender.org> - 3D painting and animation

Nvu <http://www.net2.com/nvu> - Web authoring

Web 2.0

Edmodo <http://www.edmodo.com/blog> - private micro-blogging platform for teachers and students

Scratch <http://scratch.mit.edu> - programming language to create your stories, animations, games, music and art



“The school board shall determine the scope and duration of the unit of instruction for the web safety bill for each district.”

