CECA Newsletter

Connecticut Educators Computer Association **Vol. XIV No. 1**

CECA '99: Meeting the Challenges of the Millennium

Presenters and presentations for CECA '99 have been finalized. After reviewing last year's evaluations every effort was made to improve on the success of CECA '98. There will be three major strands of presentations: Professional Development, Curricular Integration and Technical Issues. A new feature this year will be three Preconference workshops sponsored by NoteSys, Apple Computer, and SNET which bill be held on Sunday, October 31, the afternoon before the conference.

Professional Development is a key component for a successful technology plan. Ways to support, assess and motivate teachers and provide superior training experiences will be offered. Opportunities for professional growth, such as a unique program sponsored by the Japanese government will be presented. State and national standards as they apply to the use of technology will be discussed.

A variety of curricular integration activities will take center stage. Teacher presenters will share projects ideas, classroom management suggestions and both specific and general integration lessons. Ways to focus classroom use of the Internet, make the most of one computer classrooms and use multimedia will be highlighted.

A representative from the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. will join us and share ways students and teachers can use primary resources for their studies. Auntie Goodiebags has agreed to do a workshop demonstrating some of her amazing skills in creating presentations. Video conferencing, 3D modeling and interactive media as they relate to the classroom will be features. Applications at all grade levels and subject areas including foreign language, math, reading, writing, music, art, social studies, and science are on the agenda.

CECA '99
Radisson, Cromwell
November 1, 1999
Preconference
Workshops
October 31, 1999

Technical issues to be explored include video conferencing, Linux servers, techniques to manage networks, and unique ways to provide lab access. Expertise concerning topics related to web servers will be shared.

The three Preconference Workshops: The Internet and You, will take place from 1:30–5:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 31, 1999. These workshops will feature hands-on training on a state-of-the-art computer and a wireless network connected to the Internet with a T1 line. Participants will learn how to create a homepage using Microsoft® FrontPage® 98, how to develop a Webquest when searching the Internet, or how to incorporate the Internet into their classrooms. Participants will work in pairs, and must register in advance for these workshops. Each workshop is limited to 40 participants on a first come, first served

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basis.

CECA ’99 promises to be a conference for everyone:

classroom teacher, curriculum coordinator, administrator and technology personnel. We have gathered together an outstanding roster of presenters. It is expected that the conference will fill up quickly, so send your registration in as soon as possible.

Registration materials are included in this issue of the CECA Newsletter. Abstracts of each session as well as a schedule will be included in the next issue. Updated information and registration forms can

Message from the President

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE
Denise Moynihan

As CECA’s new president, I have been reflecting on the future of CECA as we stand on threshold of the millennium. To respond to the continual changes in both the educational process and technological resources, CECA must update itself. This year is an opportune time for reflection and renewal. As an organization, CECA will be looking at ourselves to examine how we can be most responsive to the needs of our membership.

John P. Kotter has highlighted several changes that organizations must make as they move into the 21st century. He stated that 21st century organizations must be externally oriented, empowering, quick to make decisions, open and candid, and more risk tolerant.

CECA offers one major conference per year with a pre-conference session on Sunday, a smaller spring conference, and the Educational Technologies Expo. Our web page and listserv are excellent resources for all kinds of information exchange. But there must be more we can do to meet the needs of teachers as they continue to integrate technology into all curricular areas.

CECA needs input from its membership to effectively move into the next century. Please take time to give us feedback either at CECA ’99 or by emailing us on the listserve. Check our webpage for further information at www.ceca-ct.org. Remember, this organization is only as strong and responsive as its weakest link. Give us your input . . . and see you at CECA ’99 on November 1st !

The Eisenhower National Clearinghouse’s latest “Focus: A Magazine for Classroom Innovators” is available online at **http://www.enc.org/focus/** This issue highlights Inquiry and Problem Solving in mathematics and science, including the use of technology. The site is easy to navigate.

Christopher Shepard
Connecticut Academy for Education
www.ctacad.org

CECA ‘99 KEYNOTE

CECA ’99 will feature a keynote address by Ted McCain. Mr. McCain is associate director for the Thornburg Center for Professional Development in San Carlos, California.

Ted worked for several years in the computer industry as a programmer, salesperson, and consultant before entering the teaching profession. In education, he has been a teacher, administrative assistant, and technology consultant. He is currently Coordinator of Instructional Technology in the Maple Ridge School District in Vancouver, B. C. Ted also teaches computer networking, graphic design, and desktop publishing for Okanagan College. He is the author of four books on educational technology and graphic design.

In addition to his work in education for the past eighteen years, Ted has also consulted with businesses and school districts on the purchase and implementation of computer systems. He has given many presentations at regional and national conferences including NECC. He also conducts workshops on the educational uses of computers. His clients nave included school districts in both Canada and the United States.

Mr. McCain was recently honored by the Primed Minister of Canada for his contributions in his field.

Ted focuses on the impact of

Continued on next page

the astounding changes taking place in the world today as a consequence of technological development. He is passionate in his belief that schools and communities must change so they can effectively prepare students for the rest of their lives. His presentations emphasize the need for parents, teachers, business and community members to act differently in order to prepare students in school today for the technologically-rich future they will undoubtedly face.

In addition to the keynote address, Ted will conduct two breakout sessions so that he can personalize his presentations. CECA is extremely proud to have been able to engage this world renown authority. Ted wears many hats and has a global perspective concerning the ways educators can prepare a plan for "Meeting the Challenges of the Millennium."

CECA is not a CEU provider. If you would like to earn CEU equivalents for your participation in the CECA conference, you MUST file an application with the office in your school system which handles CEUs BEFORE you attend the conference on Nov 1st (or Oct 31st if you are attending a Preconference workshop). A certificate of attendance will be provided at the registration desk at the end of the day.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: WELCOME TO THE WIRED WORLD

Ready or not, here comes the Communication Age. Never has time and distance meant less. Whether it's the Internet, OJ, Oklahoma, or the CNN War, we now live in different times—in a world of instantaneous global communications. The emerging electronic superhighways are a development on a par with invention of light, electricity, the telephone or printing press. They will have an impact on virtually every aspect of our lives and will change forever the way we live, work and learn.

This provocative presentation outlines the four major trends that are redefining our world, and gives you a jump start at understanding a new age which will most certainly reshape education as it has the rest of the world. By combining snapshots of the new technological realities with visions of tomorrow, participants will be able to better understand why the emergence of the communication age marks the start of really remarkable times for students, educators, families, businesses and the communities that they live and work in. So whether you're just trying to understand what's really going on out there, or working to restructure your school or community, strap on your cerebral flak jacket and let Ted point the way.

Breakout session: It's Not the Internet - It's the Information

With every new technological development that appears on the horizon, we go through a long period of technological drool, where we tend to worship the tool and not the task. It's time for us all to get beyond terminal Web lust and consider what really matters - information, and how students can use it to enhance the learning process.

This entertaining and informative session asks participants to look at the Internet in a very different way—where the focus is on curriculum and information literacy, not just cyberspace and Web sites. It profiles an integrated and interdisciplinary, problem solving strategy for teaching technological literacy to make the Internet a really useful tool across the curriculum.

Breakout session: Designing Effective Instructional Materials for a Multimedia World

Teaching is a communication business. However, the nature of communication is changing due to the powerful new information technologies including desktop publishing, presentation software, multimedia CDs, and the World Wide Web on the Internet. How can you utilize the potential of these new developments in the classroom? First, you have to learn how to operate the technology. But that's not all! Then you have to learn how to capitalize on the power of the new media to communicate. Since there seems to be so many people focusing on how to operate the new technology, this session will focus on how to use this technology to enhance communication. We will look at: * the native language of kids today. * how modern readers get and process information. * the two major roles of graphic design in the communication process. * how you can apply some of the basic principles of graphic design to your handouts, movies, and multimedia projects. * how to teach graphic design as a fundamental part of the essential literacy skills for modern students.

THE BEST OF MACWORLD 99 - PART I
BY EMERY ROTH II & DAVID EVON SHEPAUG SCHOOL

In early August the annual MacWorld Expo was back in New York City. This is the second year that New York has hosted the show. Other commitments kept me from getting to the show last year, but everyone assured me that this show was bigger and better. There is no doubt that the hit of the show was the new iBook affectionately known as Mac on the half-shell. Apple also introduced a wireless networking device called an Airport which, if it lives up to its promise, should provide excellent options in the classroom. Imagine students arriving in class with their personal iBooks and being instantly connected to the school s network. However, after two full days exploring the floor with David Evon, the technician I work with, we found a number of items that should be of interest for classroom use. David is Shepaug School s master technician and Windows guru. His PC slant served to keep me honest about the MacWare. Here is our take on the best of MacWorld 99.

iBooks and Airports

The sexy new iBooks were so hot that they have to lead our list. The iBook is best described as a laptop iMac. Like the iMac, this is a true G3 machine. The processor is rated at 300-MHz. However, also like the iMac, this probably isn't the computer for those with professional computer needs. Like the iMac, there is no floppy drive, no pci slot, and no firewire port. Also like the iMac, each iBook includes its own, built-in 56K modem, two USB ports, 10/100 base ether, 24x CD-ROM drive, and plenty of screen area. The iBook also includes a 3.2 gig hard drive, an audio speaker and 16 bit stereo audio output jack. The slim iBook comes in two flavors.

Those who recall the eMate will recognize the rounded-like-an-egg-to-withstand-punishment design; Apple claimed that the eMate dropped from chest height on a concrete floor would keep on ticking. Fortunately, they made the iMac system standard Mac 8.6. The presence of the CD drive makes me believe that it will be somewhat more fragile than the eMate was. However, the Apple sales rep at MacWorld explained the work that was done to remove unnecessary moving parts, latches, and things that protrude; they used extra-thick rubber and durable plastic. No port covers that break off here. Folded and held by the handle, David thought it looked like a lady's pocket book, but I don't think guys will be at all resistant to including one of these in their travel plans.

Remember those annoying warnings about voiding your warranty if you open your PowerBook. The iBook keyboard lifts snaps out to let you easily install memory yourself. However, a small screw can lock it in place to keep curious kids from getting in. In fact it is clear school use was a big consideration. If you own one yourself it's easy to plug in to charge, but in school, charging 30 iBooks might become a hassle had Apple not prepared for mass charging. On the bottom of the iBook are two contact points. VST systems will soon release a mass charging system. Drop in your class set of iBooks and they will all get charged.

As iBooks were everywhere in Apple's display, we had plenty of time to play with them. The 12 inch active matrix display was bright and clear even when viewed from the side. The keyboard was comfortable to use and, while I'm not fond of track pads, this one was at least as sturdy as any I've seen. Best of all, the iBook had the same zippy performance of other G3s. The built in graphics accelerator should make it fly even when doing Photoshop transformations. In spite of his PC bias, David was impressed.

Do you like reading your e-mail in bed? As an extra option, you can purchase an iBook with a built in, high-speed airport card. The Airport card communicates via radio waves to an Airport base station, a wireless network device that connects to any phone jack, DSL modem, cable modem or ether network. Plug the airport into your desktop ether port and iMac and desktop computer can browse the web on one phone link simultaneously. Of course the Airport is also designed for use in classrooms where up to 10 iBooks can connect to a single Airport at once. Multiple Airports may be used to accommodate a full class. However, if you and your special friend each have your own iBooks, you won't need an Airport. The two Airport card-equipped iBooks have all that is needed to network to each other wirelessly and send e-mail across the dining room table. A local vendor says release of the iBook is scheduled for September 1st, so I expect that by October we will be seeing iBooks turn up on TV and in magazines as the latest fashion accessory. Do you prefer blueberry or tangerine?

Avid Cinema for the iMac

I ve been excited about Avid Cinema for some time. Avid

Cinema is the easiest way to get kids of all ages editing editing video on a PCI based Macintosh or platinum G3. Students at my school have been making movies using Avid Cinema for two years. Last year one girl produced a 45 minute documentary on Czar Alexander. The program is so easy to use that students are at work with just ten minutes of introductory instruction yet it is powerful enough for them to achieve near-professional results. We have seven machines running Avid and students save their movies-in-progress to 1 gig Jaz discs. At the show we learned from Iomega that a new patch, available at their web site, would fix problems we had been having using Jaz disks with Avid on our new platinum G3s. It was with some excitement, therefore, that I anticipated Avid Cinema for the iMac. The product was unveiled at MacWorld. For $250 you get the Avid Cinema software and a small box that allows you to feed video into your iMac. The software contains several enhancements over previous versions of Avid Cinema, but it also has one major drawback. Although the hardware is well equipped to take video into the iMac from and source (TV, VCR, CamCorder), it lacks the ability to output that video back to a VHS tape. If you re looking to edit video for web sites, HyperStudio stacks, or PowerPoint presentations, this is a great way to do it. However, most of these applications rarely require the level of power-editing that is the real fun of using Avid Cinema. Ninety percent of the work we do in Avid winds up as full screen movies on VHS tape. The current iMac product will not permit that. Given past problems of compatibility between different versions of Avid Cinema, it remains unclear if the movies edited on the iMac can be turned into VHS movies through an older Avid-equipped PowerMac. If full-screen movies on VHS tape is your goal, this product will not do it.

Printers

One of our chief goals at MacWorld was finding printers for our three primary school labs. Much frustration with the uncertainties of our HP AppleTalk inkjet printers on our ether network had caused us to put money in the budget for three laser printers. Then, after the budget was passed, the teachers said they couldn t live without color. Although we found no magic for getting high speed color laser printers on a B&W budget, we did find a number of interesting printers to choose from.

Tektronix was showing their line of Phaser 840 printers that use solid ink blocks instead of traditional laser cartridges. All the laser printer companies make a good case that the high cost of inkjet supplies will quickly eat up any savings on the cost of equipment. Tektronix is taking that one step further by supplying all black ink for their 840 series for free. With each order of a set of color inks, the buyer receives free black ink. If the black ink runs out before the color inks, additional black will be sent at no cost. Tektronix also makes the case that this new technology is more ecologically responsible in that there are no cartridges to be recycled or, more often, wasted; the bare ink blocks simply dissolve into the printer as they are used. The inks themselves they claim, are non-toxic. All 840 series printers come with built in ethernet. They rate color print speed at 10 ppm. Printers range from $2500 to $4300. A variety of accessories are available. Print quality that we saw was excellent. Information on Tektronix color printers is available at **http:// Tektronix.com/color_printers/**

GCC had a wide assortment of printers available at prices we could afford. GCC is matching the discontinued Apple line of laser printers with two models. GCC s Elite 600N matches Apple s old Laserwriter 12/ 640. In several ways it exceeds the Apple model. Now you can really print right out to the edge of the page, and the GCC printer comes with 80 instead of just 64 TrueType/Postscript fonts. GCC s XL 20/600 is similarly designed to match Apple s Laserwriter 8500. It will also now print to the edge of the page and comes with 285 fonts compared to the 136 that Apple supplied. The two printers sell for $850 and $1600 respectively. We ve had an Apple 8500 operating in one of our labs for a year. If the Elite XL 20/600 is as sturdy, it will make an excellent choice for high volume lab situations, but it leaves us printing only in B&W. You will find GCC at 1-800-422-7777.

Lexmark came closest at the show to meeting our need for color lab printers at an affordable price. They offer four moderately priced printers designed for lab situations. We liked the Optra Color 45(n) which uses thermal ink jet technology. It offers speeds of 8 ppm monochrome and 4 ppm color and includes built in 10BaseT ether, 75 scalable Postscript fonts, and handles paper sizes up to 17 X 22. Just beyond our budget was a color laser printer, the Optra SC 1275(n). It gives a monochrome print speed to 12 ppm, but drops color speed to 3 ppm. It comes equipped with 10/100BaseT ether. The Optra Color 45 uses a dual color & black

cartridges while the Optra SC 1275 uses four individual color cartridges and should be less expensive to keep running. Lexmark has a large line of printers worth considering as you establish school needs, but a little laser printer with street prices below $400 (the E310) caught our attention. The Lexmark 45(n) inkjet has a street price of under $1200. The SC1275(n) has a street price of under $2400. When purchasing Lexmark products for your school, be sure to inquire if the reseller is an authorized Lexmark education reseller. If they say, yes, then request your authorized education rebate. You will find Lexmark at **http://www.lexmark.com**. If you re looking specifically for Mac compatible Lexmark printers, go right to **http://www.lexmark.com/printers/mac.html**

PowerPrint does not make printers. The company has been around for a few years with a software product that promises to let Macs print to, almost any PC-compatible laser printer, inkjet printer, specialty printer, or multi-function peripheral (MFP). PowerPrint now comes with a USB-to-Parallel or Seriel-to-Parallel cable for connecting your Mac to a parallel port printer. This year they have added PowerPrint for Networks which makes the same promise over an ethernet network. Regular PowerPrint costs $99. The new network version costs$249, but there is a $189 upgrade path for users of the original PowerPrint. You will find PowerPrint at http://www.infowave.com.

Shortly after MacWorld, I was forced into purchasing a new printer for my home. As a result, I repeated much of the show research through online sources that included both professional testing sites and sites with comments from home users. This research turned up one more candidate which we had overlooked at the show for reasons explained later. My home needs were more modest than our lab needs, but what I turned up might make an excellent lab solution at half the price of models discussed above. At home I need to print everything from text to color photos and charts. I also wanted speed and needed something that wouldn t burn a hole in my pocket by gobbling materials. My printer budget was considerably smaller than our school budget, but I had no need for high output levels. I was surprised when one printer, the new Epson Stylus Color 900 [street prices around $400], rose quickly to the top of the research meeting all of these criteria. Now that it is in my home and running I can report that it is an unusually fine piece of equipment leaving all others in its price category in the dust. Connected to a blue & white 400 MHz G3 via USB, the first thing that amazed me was the speed. Epson rates it at 12 ppm B&W, 10 ppm color. I selected a full-page 8X10 photo with 100% ink coverage, set the printer for maximum speed, and background printing and watched the page fly through the printer. The complete photo printed in 17 seconds from the time it hit the print cue. The finished page showed very slight banding but was otherwise sharp and bright. Choosing a preset for PhotoEnhanc3, the print job took somewhat longer but the banding disappeared. The printer software includes a wide range of adjustments to meet almost every kind of printing job and customization need. Want a bit more blue, just turn it up. You can even save settings for particular jobs and use them months later. Other controls let you set the printer to print a list of jobs at a predetermined time in the future or hold them until you are ready to print all. In a classroom where everyone wants to print at the end of the period, this might be useful. Want to watermark your work as DRAFT, it s in

With a school full of HPs, I have an extensive collection of manuals, not one of which is readable. The Epson not only comes with a

THIRTY OR MORE?

(CNN) — Although the Internet seems to be in its infancy, its origins date back 30 years ...

Now think older. When Western Union Telegraph Company went to automatic switching in 1948, doing away with manual rekeying in traffic centers, we had the text equivalent of the Internet in terms of e-mail, lists, and some forms of data retrieval. The skills I needed as a telegraph operator then are the same skills I need in e-mail today for the most part.

Unfortunately for Western Union, there was no way they could make operators out of the public the way the telephone company and the automobile companies did. There wasn't a cheap, otherwise useful home/office device that 'everybody' had or wanted. An expensive human operator was required at both ends. And so Western Union's message business died and what it did had to be reinvented.

The old teletypes survived for a while as remote terminals to the 'big' machines of the day. In the mid 1960's if you were clever you could put a 'message' (output of a computer run) in the account of another user on the same big machine, the beginnings of teacher - student remote interaction in classes like statistics and computer programming.

This in no way negates the technological importance and excitement of what happened 30 years ago. But we should recognize that the ideas behind some of the uses of the Internet are MUCH older.

Ernie Anderson
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(retired after 56 years in what is

WEB PAGE FOR CONNECTICUT'S CHILDREN

On June 16, 1999 the ConneCT Management Advisory Committee (CMAC), which manages State of Connecticut's Web Page, held a forum at the State Legislative Office Building in Hartford for the express purpose of asking Connecticut's children what they thought should be included on a Web Page for kids. Students from Kindergarten to high school participated on a discussion panel which represented districts from across the state. Parents, educators and librarians added their ideas to those of the students. Hundreds of ideas were generated. A visit by "Mark Twain" climaxed the event. The event was taped and rebroadcast on cable television.

Ideas are still being gathered to ensure that this page is one of the best sites for children in the nation. What information about Connecticut would you like to see on this page? What information will help teachers teach about Connecticut? What information do parents need to help them with the important job of parenting?

Email your ideas and questions to CMAC at ConneCT.kidspage@po.state.ct.us. Please include your name, organization, school or town of residence along with your suggestions.

To find out more about this exciting state project, including a list of the many ideas already suggested, visit the Web Page for Children at **http://www.kids.state.ct.us**.

Leigh Wojda

APPLEWORKS TIPS

Did you know that you can insert more than 10 columns in a spreadsheet frame?

Here's how: When spreadsheet frames are inserted in word processing documents, the spreadsheet contains 10 columns and 50 rows by default. If you need more than 10 columns (or 50 rows) for your spreadsheet frame, follow these four easy steps:

1. Select the spreadsheet frame in the word processing document. It should have "handles" on each corner.
2. Under Window, select Open Frame.
3. Select Document...from the Format menu.
4. In the Format Document dialog box, type in the number of columns your spreadsheet frame should have.
5. Close the frame window by clicking on the close box.
6. Resize the spreadsheet frame, so that your new columns are visible.

Another good AppleWorks Tip for you! (for intermediate to advanced users)

Let's say that you've created a 4 paragraph word processing report and embellished it with a spreadsheet... only to discover that one part of the spreadsheet should have been created under paragraph 1 and the other part under paragraph 4. Does that mean you have to do the entire spreadsheet all over again?

NO WAY! By Simply turning the one spreadsheet into a frame links spreadsheet, you'll be able to divide it into as many "smaller spreadsheets" as you need. Here's how:

1. With your arrow tool selected, click on the spreadsheet to make it active.
2. From the Options menu, choose Frame Links.
3. Notice at the bottom of your spreadsheet you now have a downpointing arrow, we'll use this shortly.
4. Place your arrow on the handle in the lower right corner of your spreadsheet and drag up until only the first part of the spreadsheet that you want is showing.
5. Now click inside the box with the downpointing arrow-- make sure the TIP of your pointer is inside the box. Notice your pointer turns into the spreadsheet tool!
6. Now draw a spreadsheet frame on your page and all the data will reappear in its own frame!

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To add your school to CECA's web page, send the URL to:

CECA News@aol.com

HELP! WHEN PAYING WITH A PURCHASE ORDER.....

The bulk of the problems at last year's registration table were caused by POs that had not been received from Schools' Central Offices. Sometimes there is a lapse of 2 months between the purchase request and the generation of the PO and then as much as another month before checks are generated if they are to accompany the registration.

Preconference Registrations are to be postmarked by October 15 to receive the Preconference rate of $85.00 for conference and membership. After October 15 the price jumps by $15 to $100 for conference and membership.

If you are approved to attend CECA '99 by your supervisor and you plan to pay with a Purchase Order, it would help if you could fax or mail your registration form with a PO number or a photocopy of the PO so that your registration can be processed in a timely manner and to avoid problems at the registration table at the conference.

CECA Fax - (203) 481-1677

CECA Mail: PO Box 1019, Branford, CT 06405

****** PLEASE NOTE:**

If you have **NOT** registered for CECA '99 your will find a personalized registration form inserted in this newsletter. Please use this form to simplify the registration process. If you have already registered there will be no form in the newsletter and CECA thanks you for registering early.

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1999-2000

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