



Teaching tech-savvy students



Students at Lakewood Elementary School get a glimpse at software they'll use to build digital portfolios. The portfolios (see sample below) are essentially electronic notebooks used to document learning.

By Miguel Strother

The technological revolution of the 90s has left many educators scrambling to keep pace with students exposed to computers all of their lives, but UVic's Faculty of Education is helping teachers get up to speed.

"Technology permeates much of our everyday life now," says Faculty of Education member Dr. Leslee Francis-Pelton "It is important for teachers to be aware of these developments."

Dr. Francis-Pelton and her husband Tim Pelton, a PhD candidate at Brigham Young University, are developing a tool for creating Enhanced Instructional Videos (EIV). The tool will allow the transfer of regular educational videos into a digital format capable of turning a computer into a tutor that can challenge and help students of different abilities.

The program will rely on a database of recorded responses to the questions students typically have difficulty with. When students come to a question they can't answer, a video-based explanation from a teacher is available at the click of a button.

Teachers with even a limited knowledge of computers can easily adjust the answers to the level of the class they are teaching. All of this is a very important

transition in learning, says Francis-Pelton. "People need to feel confident that teachers are aware of new technologies and are seeking ways to use these to improve the education of the students that they

ter's Grade 3 class have taught computer workshops at teacher professional development days.

Responding to the shift in technological capabilities, Warring and Potter got the approval of the Victoria School District and

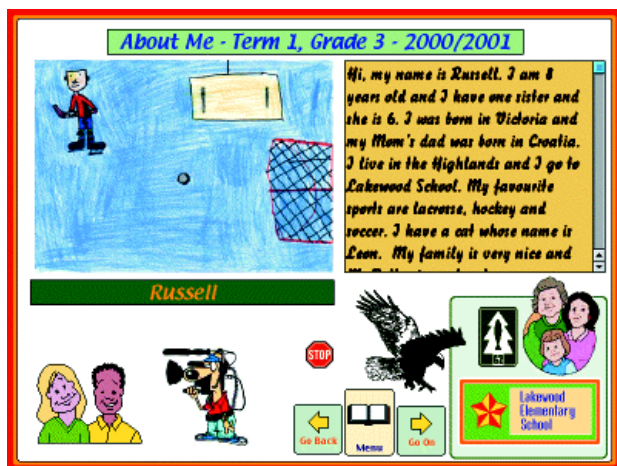
then raised money on their own to develop two pilot classrooms equipped with advanced computers. The idea was to fully incorporate technology into traditional methods of teaching, an idea Potter (then 50 years old) explored while completing a master's degree focusing on educational technology at UVic in 1994.

Now Lakewood has 15 internet-connected, high-speed iMacs loaded with educational software, and Warring and Potter juggle teaching time between a traditional classroom setting and computer-based learning.

"It's teaching to prepare kids for the modern world," says Warring.

Evaluation of individual student's performance is based on portfolios constructed on the computers. The CD-ROM portfolios are based on topics mandated by the B.C. curriculum and include everything from text and photos to audio and video clips loaded on to the computers by the students themselves.

Lakewood's experiment has educators all over the province interested.



teach," says Francis-Pelton. "I don't think that it is possible for the teacher to be an expert in every aspect of technology. Rather they need to have a firm grounding in the basics, a positive attitude toward evolving technologies, and a willingness to incorporate new learning technologies as they prove practical."

According to Lakewood Elementary School teachers Ted Warring and Brian Potter, both UVic education graduates, their students are well past the stage most adults consider computer literate. In fact, students in Pot-

EDGE/WISE Tech tools for teachers

As local school districts obtain greater access to computer resources, their teachers are expected to demonstrate a higher level of technological expertise in the classroom.

Realizing this, UVic's Faculty of Education has been busy upgrading programs and facilities, making it possible for their student teachers to thrive in the 21st-century classroom.

Teachers showing an interest in technology will now be able to hone their skills on some of the most

advanced equipment available. The faculty's state-of-the-art computer lab is equipped with three digital movie cameras, a scanner, a multimedia station and 28 new computers, including 10 special edition models with 500 megabytes of RAM each.

In addition to the new equipment, the faculty offers a Computers in Education Certificate program providing teachers of varying levels of computer proficiency training in e-mail, page design, spreadsheets, Internet searching, web

page construction, and the use of presentation software.

"School districts are now expecting new teachers to have a good understanding of the fundamentals of computers in the classroom. They are wanting computer literate teachers," says Sandy Okenden, the education PhD candidate orchestrating the program. "The program helps teachers meet the expectations of school districts and enhance the classroom learning environment by integrating computers into instructional design."

SHARPEN YOUR KNOWLEDGE

A comprehensive site offering daily recommendations for on-line resources in subjects ranging from arithmetic to zoology is available at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/home/>. A dream-come-true for teachers wanting to explore interesting new lesson plan ideas.

As classroom inclusion becomes a bigger part of everyday education, teachers and parents need to be aware of the resources available to them. Special Education Technology British Columbia (SET-BC) at <http://www.setbc.org/> provides a detailed list of the latest technology resources available for children with a variety of special needs.

A huge site with an extensive list of multimedia resources on interesting subjects ranging from the seasons to the Olympic Games can be found at <http://beritsbest.com>. This user-friendly site offers links to a multitude of respected online educational resources.

Schoolnet, the Canadian government's newly reconstructed site for information on educational technology, showcases more than 5,000 Internet-based educational resources and services. To view this site, go to <http://www.schoolnet.ca/home/e/>.

Maintained by Grade 3 teacher Brian Potter, Lakewood Elementary School's regularly updated web site provides basic information about the school as well as highlights the history, philosophy and direction of computer-based programs there. To view this site go to <http://142.31.207.190/>.

ON THE EDGE OF YOUR SEAT

Why Corruption Is Necessary: Rethinking the Good Governance Paradigm in Indonesia

Sept. 25, 12:30 p.m.
David Strong Building, Room C130
Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives Brown Bag lecture by Dr. Timothy Lindsay, Univ. of Melbourne

Connecting Components: Theory Versus Practice

Sept. 28, 3:30 p.m.
MacLaurin Building, Room D288
Computer Science lecture by Dr. Judith Bishop, University of Pretoria, South Africa

How Could the Greeks Believe in Oracles?

Sept. 28, 7:30 p.m.
Cornett Building, Room B108
Lansdowne Lecture by Prof. Robert Parker, New College, Oxford

Reading by Stephen Hume

Sept. 28, 7:30 p.m. Centre for Innovative Teaching, Room 105
Department of Writing sessional instructor, *Vancouver Sun* columnist, and author of *Bush Telegraph* reads from his nonfiction prose

For further information on these and other public events at UVic, visit the online events calendar at <http://www.uvic.ca/events>.

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