

Distance Learning Odyssey

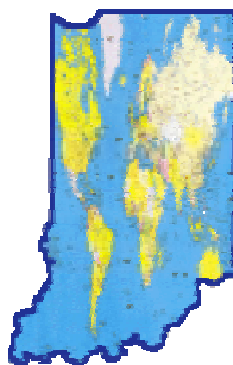
South Central Indiana DIAL Consortium

Connecting Indiana with the World: Interactive Adventures Without Passports

April 2001

Issue 6

- Do you have an IU student from France who could talk with my French II students about the life of a teenager in France using both English and French languages?
- Can you find someone who grew up in Germany during World War II? I'd like my students to see a different perspective than what the textbook presents.
- We have a lot of Hispanic ESL students in our school. Can you find some graduate students from Latin American countries for them just to talk to in a panel? They need to meet some Latino students who have made it through college successfully to encourage them.
- All 7th grade students in our school are assigned to a team in January. Each team studies a different country in depth, preparing a display and presentation in March for the elementary school nearby, and then for the entire community. We'd like as many teams as possible to interact with a native of their countries, to make their learning more authentic. Do you have international students from Japan, Canada, Argentina, Poland, Ireland, Israel, China, Bolivia, Vietnam, the Ukraine, and India?



International
Studies for
Indiana
Schools

Connecting Indiana with the world - these are actual requests for international connections from teachers around Indiana and other states. International Studies for Indiana Schools (ISIS) is a project that tries to find international students or scholars here at Indiana University (IU) to fulfill requests such as these. What a great opportunity it is for American students to directly interact with people from other cultures! It's also a thrill for the international students to meet and interact with the American audiences.

Perhaps a teacher wants to extend her curriculum beyond the basic requirements. Perhaps another wants to delve more deeply into a particular concept. Perhaps their students will never have the resources to travel abroad to experience the countries being studied in class. Perhaps a small rural Indiana community is experiencing a wave of immigration, but the students know nothing about the cultures of their new classmates.

ISIS provides these direct experiences, designing them with the teacher and the presenter to address the curriculum standards. The aims of all ISIS programs are to be educational, interactive, and exciting. We hope to leave students wanting to know more about different cultures and international topics.

Deb Hutton

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Special points of interest:

- To schedule a distance learning event fill out the **scheduling request form** on page 252 of the Vision Athena Catalog or on the web at <http://www.visionathena.k12.in.us/> and fax it to 812-856-8232
- To join the **DIAL listserv** send an email to Amy Lee at adlee@indiana.edu
- For immediate assistance during an event, call the **Video Images Helpdesk** at 800-488-4336

Teacher Grant Updates

Indiana History Award

Home Court Advantage

For this project the entire fourth grade of McCormick's Creek Elementary School participated in connections related to Hoosier Hysteria Indiana Basketball history. Content connections included John Laskowski, TV announcer for IU basketball, Bob Hammel, radio and newspaper writer, IMAX 3D Theater, and Bobby Plumb, the person the movie Hoosiers was based on. The student's looked at Indiana basketball history from many aspects and across subject lines including history, writing, math and art.

Ongoing Collaboration Award

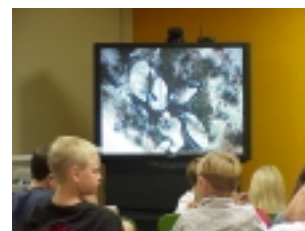
VIESN

The VIESN group has completed their second year of programming. These eight elementary schools have continued the collaborative work between classrooms and built on last year's success. The experience and expertise that these schools have achieved in working together is a great example of what can be accomplished through continued collaboration. We expect that the model they have created will be a source of inspiration for others. Learn more by emailing Project Director Pam Todd at ptodd123@aol.com

Environmental Studies Award

Testing the Waters

This project grew out of the *Stranded...But Soaring Beyond* project from last year. This once again is a collaboration between teachers Tim Soliday and Fred Walden with the aid of Myrna Fields. This project focuses primarily on water quality and environmental issues. Distance learning connections include the Ocean Institute in California, Mote Marine Research Laboratory in Sarasota Florida, The Wilds Environmental Education in Ohio, the Aquatic Research Institute from their site in East Chicago at the water treatment plant, and with Oregon author Roland Smith who helped rescue sea otters after the Exxon Valdez oil spill.



Aquatic Research Institute
video teleconference at
Owen Valley Middle School

Author Series Award

Ben Mikaelson

Ben has done several distance learning programs over the last three years. This year he chose to do a series of connections: *Becoming the Author of Your Life*, *Finding the Heart of the Story*, and *Creation of a Book*. This series was offered to the state network and was received by an average of nine schools per session and 300 students. This inspiring series was such an overwhelming success that it will be offered again next year.

Learn more at <http://www.benmikaelson.com>

Technology Innovation Award

Mission: Martian Colony

The Mission to Mars Robotics class will be a collaboration between Indiana University computer science students and high school seniors at Columbus North High School. At Columbus North it will be part of a mathematics programming class offered every year. The IU students will be enrolled in A290 Introduction to LEGO Robotics. The mission of the students will be to construct robots that will assemble a simulated Mars colony using LEGO robotics kits. This will be in conjunction with advice from Aeronautics Engineers; people at NASA who are familiar with robotics construction. Through use of video teleconferencing and the web the students will collaborate on the designs of these robots.

Learn more at <http://babbelfish.cs.indiana.edu/marsproject/>

Student Presentation Award

Story of the Stone

The Story of the Stone is a project involving fourth grade students in Beth Piekarsky's class at University Elementary. The project was designed to explore the effect of limestone on Indiana history. This program was delivered to fourth grade classes at Eastern Greene and Martinsville South. These students produced an exceptional video and presentation that was an excellent summary of all that they have learned over the course of the year through their various field trips and otherwise. We hope this model will be adopted by others.

Learn more at <http://crlt.indiana.edu/dial/projects.html>

Teacher Grant Updates

Community Impact Award

I-69: Making Connections

I-69: Making Connections, designed by Rebecca Hayes, gave approximately 120 eighth grade students a chance to research the I-69 project and compare their community's perceptions of the project with others in the state. Experiences were designed to help students understand federal interstate guidelines and their impact on communities. Through this interdisciplinary project, students used research skills through language arts using resources such as interviewing, surveying, software, printed materials, the Internet, and distance learning connections. The focus of the project was a well-rounded view of the I-69 project to help students identify an issue which they felt was a problem. I-69: Making Connections provided students a unique opportunity to research a very explosive community issue by gathering information from those individuals actually in charge of the project.



Reading newspapers from areas across the state helped students sort “fact” from “fiction” as it related to the I-69 issue.

Implementation Award

University Elementary

This year University Elementary worked with coordinator Dave Bartlett to create an implementation process for schools. Projects included a series of workshop staff meetings and strategic partnerships within the schools. University has found many applications of distance learning that has increased usage dramatically. The lessons learned from this will benefit all the schools of our consortium.

Learn more at <http://crlt.indiana.edu/dial/projects.html>

Science Instructor Award

Dr. Bill Boone

Dr. Boone has been offering his E516 Hands-on Science class to elementary and middle school teachers for five years. His innovative approach to teaching science and the use of technology has made him one of the top presenters within this field. This class was delivered to Culver Academy in northern Indiana and Paoli High School in southern Indiana via the Vision Athena system.

International Programming Award

International Studies for Indiana Schools (ISIS)

Under the direction of Deb Hutton, International Studies for Indiana Schools (ISIS), has provided two initiative series of programs this year in addition to the custom programs which have been the usual mode of presentation for ISIS. The two series were Face to Face with the World and International Education Week 2000: Interactive Video Series for Indiana. These programs have greatly increased the visibility and awareness of international issues for Indiana students.

Learn more at <http://crlt.indiana.edu/isis>

Interdisciplinary Cultural Unit Award

A Different Drum

A Different Drum is an interdisciplinary project by the 7th grade Comets Team at Owen Valley Middle School. Based in part on two books: *Count-down* by Ben Mikaelson and *ThunderCave* by Roland Smith (both set in Kenya, Africa), this project included six connections to help students understand the culture of Kenya. During the connections students spoke with Kenya native Atieno Adala (ISIS) about her culture, Michael Connor at IMAX 3D Theater on the future of African elephants, Ken Sheidler from Channel 6 about his experience in Africa, the Indianapolis Art Museum for examples of the art of Kenya, the Indianapolis Art Center for an interactive session on beading techniques, and author Ben Mikaelson. Students were able to meet with author Roland Smith at Owen Valley Middle School for a final activity.



A distance learning connection with the Indianapolis Art Center gave students an opportunity to practice African beading techniques.

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DIAL Consortium**

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Connecting Classrooms To
The World

We're on the Web!
<http://www.crlt.indiana.edu/dial/index.html>

Distance Learning Curriculum Integration Workshop

June 19-21, 2001

This is a workshop intended to help teachers, administrators, and technology coordinators design curriculum, which integrate distance learning technologies through the Vision Athena Network and other related distance learning resources.

Participants will generate project ideas through exposures to distance learning connections, existing model projects, and be given time to design their own projects and to work on CEC grant writing to support the project.

To sign up for the workshop complete a registration form and fax it to 812-856-8232. Please email adlee@indiana.edu with your fax number for additional registration forms.

Teacher Grant Updates

Degree Program Award

Dennis Knapczyk

Dr. Knapczyk has offered his special education certification course for the last three years. It has been delivered to eight sites and has included almost one hundred students. This is the first certification program offered by IU degree program masters level. Because of the success of this class, we hope that this model is continued in the future.

Continuous Improvement Program Award

Denise Briner and Cindy Sturgis

Denise and Cindy delivered a series of programs to Van Wert Schools in Ohio on Baldrige applications in Science and Language Arts at the High School level. The programs included "quality" tool training and presentations on how they applied the Baldrige criteria within their classrooms. In support of schools pursuing varying models of continuous improvement, these applications of distance learning can supply an important communication role. This model of teacher-to-teacher connections has significant impact for affecting classroom practice.

School to Work Application

Mike Hackman

Mike Hackman Business Teacher at Columbus North High School has piloted a school-to-work communication link with Hauser High School students through distance learning. Mike, who has taught a marketing class through distance learning for many years, meets periodically with the students to debrief from their school-to-work experience. This model of instructor-to-students is being explored as an option for the C-4 program that serves three adjacent counties to Bartholomew County.
