



AT&T Classroom

RCET Scholarship For Former AT&T Classroom Students

RCET
Kent State University

Winter 2006

Sarah Bowen



Jared Adkins



RCET provides one annual \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating senior who participated in a 6 week classroom session at the AT&T classroom sometime during their K-12 schooling. In addition to that the student must be registered at Kent State University for his/her freshman year. The applicant must complete an application, write an essay about their career objectives, and get a recommendation from either a teacher or guidance counselor in their school district. This competitive process determines who will be receiving the award. The first award went to **Sarah Bowen** of Ravenna for the fall 2004 semester. This year another group of former AT&T students graduated from high school, and **Jared Atkins** of Stow was the winning candidate. For further information on the RCET scholarship contact Frank Seman at the AT&T classroom. fseman@kent.edu

Former AT&T Teachers Mentor Colleagues

Teams of teachers from surrounding school districts will be coming together on Thursday, December 14th, to discuss the progress on their group projects. The teacher technology mentor teams are supported by \$1,000 grants from the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation or the Ohio Learning Network. The teacher leaders for this project include:

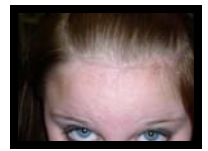
- Kate Viers**- Crestwood Primary School, Mantua
- Marcia Wallenfeldt**- Crestwood Intermediate School, Mantua
- Theresa Boyle**- Crestwood Intermediate School, Mantua
- Jan Kelly**- O.H. Somers Elementary School, Mogadore
- Richard Booth**- Hillcrest Elementary School, Bath
- Karen McClain**- Highland Elementary School, Stow
- Debra Miller**- Fishcreek Elementary School, Stow
- Christi Bates**- Holden Elementary School, Kent
- Nancy Condit**- Child Development Center- Kent State University

Annette Kratcoski, a RCET researcher, is coordinating the development and execution of these team projects. Another source of help and encouragement has been provided by the AT&T classroom staff, including Tom McNeal and Pat Mazzer.



Genetic Babies in the AT&T Classroom

Marlene Osborn's seventh grade class from Roberts Middle School spent six weeks investigating genetics. Flip booklets and other models using various forms of technology were crafted depicting the stages of mitosis. DNA was extracted and the materials were investigated using the Intel digital microscopes. Students examined many inherited traits like PTC tasting, widow's peak, hitchhikers thumb, free ear lobes etc. and built heredity wheels using Paint Shop Pro to enter the data. Punnett squares were created using the Interwrite Boards to share the analysis of the crossing of dominant and recessive traits. Genetic counselors, Amanda Salor and Melonie Michelson from the Akron Children's Hospital were invited into the classroom to discuss genetic abnormalities and disease conditions which involve genetic disorders. Students selected a topic based on these discussions to research. The acquired knowledge was then demonstrated in pamphlets constructed using Microsoft Publisher software. Dr. David Hess of Princeton University, a DNA expert, participated in a teleconference with the students. The student questions were emailed to Dr. Hess prior to the conference and additional questions were generated by the discussion, This wonderful exchange of ideas enhanced the student's understanding on a variety of topics. New concepts in areas like epigenetics were also addressed. The culmination of the unit was a simulation of a gene pool where students randomly selected gametes with their inherited traits for egg and sperm. These combinations resulted in genotypes which were used to create "genetic babies". Assessment of student understanding using the Turning Point personal response system provided Mrs. Osborn with an alternate method of tracking student knowledge.



Stow Ohio, Geography, History and Government

Julie Obraza's third grade students were moodling in the classroom during their six week study of their community, Stow Ohio. Moodle is an online community where students can exchange ideas by posting information. Mrs. Obraza was the first teacher in attendance at the AT&T classroom to utilize this form of communication for reflection. Students commented daily on the activities and subject matter they experienced. The study of Stow, Ohio began with a look at the geography of the area and the question: How can I find where I am in the world and explain my location so someone else can find me? Students learned about grids, cardinal directions, keys and legends in preparation for a field trip to the Kent State University Map Library where Dr. Edith Scarletto displayed a variety of map types associated with their home town, Stow. Students learned to use a compass as well as a GPS instrument to determine direction and location. A ranger from the Cuyahoga Valley National Park Environmental Education Center, Pam Barnes, did a hands-on activity with the children using the GPS system. A daily activity using the Interwrite Board and a projected map of the world, provided students with an opportunity to give and follow directions. The study of Stow government was launched with a field trip to the City Hall. Here Mayor Fritschel addressed the class and students got a glimpse of the council chambers. The Geographic Information System Coordinator, Steve Gibbons, used a variety of Stow maps to show how the population has grown from the early 1950s to the present. Students carried Intel Digital cameras to document the visit and to record information they planned to use in PowerPoint presentations back in the classroom. Upon returning to the classroom, students were given the choice to run for elected offices. A primary election (along with voting booth) was conducted and the final slate of candidates was posted on a Turning Point slide show which allowed the students to vote anonymously using the personal response system. Timelines using Inspiration software and Palm handhelds were constructed to document all of the fun and educational activities the third graders experienced.

