

WHAT'S **new**

Hewlett-Packard is partnering with ISTE for the fifth year to provide professional development for K–12 teams participating in the **2008 HP Technology for Teaching grant** program. The program will award K–12 grants of nearly \$7 million in cash and equipment to public schools in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. Higher education grants are available to public and private, two- and four-year colleges and universities throughout North America (Canada, Puerto Rico, and the U.S.). The higher education initiative is specifically targeting faculty teaching selected disciplines within math, science, engineering, information systems, and computer science. *Web-based applications are due by 5 p.m. PST, February 14, 2008.* For more information and to download a request for proposals, visit the Web site.

MORE INFO: Hewlett-Packard Development Company, LP,
<http://www.hp.com/go/hpteach>



Innovation First, Inc. has introduced a new fundraising product, **HEXBUG Micro Robotic Creatures**, to give students an alternative to help raise money for the financial costs associated with participating in high-end robotics events. According to the company, one of the biggest obstacles facing schools and teams participating in these events is the financial cost and required fundraising. The HEXBUG is a micro-sized creature that crawls and uses bmp sensor feelers that help it avoid obstacles. Users can help guide the creature and change direction by clapping or making a loud noise to activate its three-way steering feature. The fundraising cases come with 30 units, divided into six display carriers, each with five bugs in pink, yellow, blue, green, and orange. Students will make a \$5.50 profit for each bug they sell and a 50–55% profit per case, depending on the quantity purchased. There is only a one case minimum order, and the company provides free shipping within the 48 contiguous states.

MORE INFO: Innovation First, Inc., 1.903.453.0802
<http://www.hexbug.com/promo.html>

NetSupport, Inc. has released **NetSupport DNA Helpdesk 2.7**, a system to help IT professionals at educational institutions keep IT help desk calls in check. The new version includes e-mail integration and active directory support along with an enhanced user interface. DNA Helpdesk now has the ability to integrate a mail server enabling a more proactive approach to dealing with customer communications. Incoming e-mails can now be routed automatically to a helpdesk operator based on pre-set rules. The escalation process for “open” issues has also been dramatically modified, including the ability to take into account helpdesk working hours and holidays. It also includes a complete refresh of the user interface, the ability to update user details automatically from active directory, and the option to store frequently used ticket searches. To download an evaluation copy, visit the Web site.

MORE INFO: NetSupport, Inc.,
<http://www.netsupportdna.com>



Arts Alliance America Educational Media has released the educational version of the documentary film **Paper Clips**, which documents how students responded to lessons about the Holocaust by collecting one paper clip for each victim. The documentary has been modified to include materials for use in development of classroom curriculums. The film chronicles an assignment given to students in a small rural community in Tennessee to explore diversity, tolerance, culture, history, and love. The DVD includes four standard lesson plans for junior and senior high school students; a pop-up version of the film with facts, footage, and photos to facilitate classroom discussion, and teachers’ guides and student handouts in printable formats. The G-rated film has a running time of 84 minutes and sells for a suggested retail price of \$59.99.

MORE INFO: Arts Alliance America Educational Media, <http://www.artsallianceamerica.com>

This information is compiled by *L&L*’s editorial intern, Lindsey Durrell, from press releases that come into the ISTE editorial office. The products and resources are not reviewed by the *L&L* staff and are offered here without recommendation. Send press releases and suggestions for entries to products@iste.org.

Educational Insights has released the **GeoSafari Quiz Bowl System**, a wireless customized quiz system for students. Teachers can create questions via the master unit, assign point values, type in the players' names and print out the questions and answers for the moderator. The first student who "buzzes in" to answer a question is displayed on the scoreboard unit. Once the answer is given, the moderator presses "correct" or "incorrect" on the Host Controller and the scoreboard displays the results. Questions can be assigned a time value and teachers can also create bonus questions to add excitement. Designed for grades 3 and up, it has two LEDs on the back and front of the units for response acknowledgement and a five-character display to show the teams' scores. Teachers can create and store up to 5,000 questions for a maximum of 100 games of 50 questions or 50 games of 100 questions. The basic kit comes with 10 player remotes for two teams of five players, but extra scoreboards and remotes can be purchased for additional teams. The basic kit has a purchase price of \$499.99.

MORE INFO: Educational Insights, Inc., 1.800.885.4436
<http://www.educationalinsights.com>

Famundo, a free on-line calendar and file manager for schools, has announced the release of **Famundo for Families**, a new fundraising tool for schools. Famundo's referral program pays a portion of subscription fees collected from any school family that subscribes to the premium version of Famundo for Families. The standard version is free and allows school families to automatically update their personal Famundo calendar with events from a school's calendar. If a family upgrades and subscribes to Famundo for Families Plus, which contains no ads and more storage, Famundo will donate 10% of their subscription fees back to the referring school. If 100 school families become subscribers, \$1,000 annually will be donated back to the school.



MORE INFO: Famundo, LLC,
<http://www.famundo.com/organizations>

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Priority Code: CC070301

HistCite Software LLC has released **HistCite**, a new software package to help IT professionals, scientists, educators, librarians, and administrators make better use of their literature searches. The program is designed to organize, analyze, and visualize the results of a search to obtain a better understanding of the topic's structure, history, and key events. For example, it creates frequency distributions of the key bibliographic elements in the search output. You can find out how many times a particular author, institution, or journal appears in the search output. The program tabulates how frequently words appear in article titles as well as output of articles by country or institution, and it offers many other analyses. Users can easily determine the most cited articles, authors, institutions, and geographic locations to learn who and what is influential in the subject area. HistCite sells for \$199 for the base program with discounts for quantity purchases. It is available by download of a 30-day free trial package that can be converted to a licensed version.

MORE INFO: HistCite Software LLC, <http://www.histcite.com>

Atomic Learning has released a new online workshop focusing on Web 2.0 tools. The **Web 2.0 workshop** is a series of one- to four-minute tutorial movies that explain what Web 2.0 means and also teaches learners how to use Web 2.0 tools, such as blogs, wikis, social networking sites (MySpace, Facebook, etc.), RSS feeds, and more. This workshop was created by Vicki Davis, a classroom teacher, blogger and co-author of The Flat Classroom Project (*Editor's note:* See "Flat Classrooms," *L&L*, August 2007, pp. 28–30). The tutorials include definitions of Web 2.0 terminology, how to set up an RSS reader, how to copy links, and more. For a complete list of Atomic Learning workshops, including blogging, podcasting, newsletter design and more, visit the Web site.

MORE INFO: Atomic Learning, <http://www.atomiclearning.com/workshops>

TownConnect, a free, private online service, is now available to help teachers and families stay connected. Teachers can set up secure, private group sites to share events, news, field trip photos, and homework assignments, and through working interactively, students and parents can send teachers questions and comments. The site can also be used for student group projects and homework help. Parents can communicate with one another to arrange car pools, work out volunteer schedules, and interact with teachers. According to the company, the site provides a safe and private forum for members only, because members control who sees information on their profiles, and members can only see and find people from their town, groups, schools, teams, or previous connections.

MORE INFO: TownConnect, <http://www.townconnect.com>

Tool Factory has unveiled the **Tool Factory Podcasting Kit**, which provides the software, digital voice recorder, high-quality microphone, server space, and a how-to book designed to make podcasting easy for educators.



The kit includes software equipped with a podcasting organization tool, a scripting tool, an audio recorder, an RSS feed generator, and an upload feature. It comes with an Olympus digital voice recorder, which can serve as an audio recorder for interviews or an MP3 player, and an Olympus noise reduction microphone. Users can also download copyright-free audio clips and add sound effects with a one-year Clip Art Station subscription and host podcasts on a free Web Page Station for the first three months. The kit sells for an educational price of \$249.99.

MORE INFO: Tool Factory, <http://www.toolfactory.com>

Coming Next Issue in **L&L**

Learning While Mobile

Learning is becoming more personal, yet collaborative and networked, portable and situated, ubiquitous and durable—and increasingly at odds with formal education, as more and different types of learning are happening outside of the classroom. Researcher Mark van 't Hooft provides a glimpse of what the not-so-distant future of education might bring.

One Size Doesn't Fit All

Despite teachers' positive opinions about the importance and efficacy of educational technology use, most have not had sufficient time or opportunity to engage in the professional learning necessary to use ed tech effectively. In the second of her four part series on educational technology professional development, Judi Harris presents and explains different ETPD models.

Making Field Trips Podtastic

Although podcasts have increased our ability to access information, they tend to turn listeners inward. Aliece Weller, John Bickar, and Paul McGuinness of the Harvard Graduate School of Education describe educational applications of podcasting that encourage student interaction and collaboration.

Celebrating **35** Volumes