

# MEMBER profiles

Paul Reinhart

## Bridging the Gap between the Board and the Classroom

Since beginning his teaching career 17 years ago, Paul Reinhart has become an educational technology enthusiast. “I just want to be the best teacher I can be to help my students grow and learn. No pun intended, but it just clicked with me that technology is a great way for the kids to show the world what they know, to tackle problems, and investigate things. So for me to be the best teacher I can be, I need to include technology.

“When I moved to Bowling Green, Ohio, I went from sixth graders to second graders. That was some culture shock! But I think that was the best group to be with to get some seeds planted. I’d give the kids a digital camera to take pictures around the school. Just a silly ABC book of our school.



They’d come up with a word, put it in a sentence and take a picture. Then we’d make a slideshow and put that on the Internet. And these were second graders!”

Throughout the next few years, Paul focused on encouraging his colleagues to integrate technology in their classrooms through his training. “The State of Ohio was pushing to put Internet-connected computers in the classroom. The administrators didn’t know what to do with them and I was starved to get people to use them, so I started doing training on my own. I presented locally, statewide, and nationally,” he says. “I was kind of getting burnt out on giving, giving,

so the next step was to run for the board of directors to have another avenue of growth.”

For the past four years, Paul has served on the ISTE Board as the PK–12 Schools Representative. He hopes that one day, ISTE will be the global leader in technology standards. “I’m hoping that ISTE keeps working so that when elementary teachers hear technology standards, they think of ISTE and look to us first.”

As he leaves the ISTE board, he hopes that more classroom teachers will get involved with ISTE. “My term is up and I’m the last classroom-based teacher on the board. K–12 teachers can do this. They can get on a board or even get involved locally. You just have to be willing to make a difference.”

## Keeping Pace with Information Literacy

Special Interest Group

Lisa Perez is the president of the Special Interest Group for Media Specialists. “I have been aware of ISTE for a number of years,” Perez says, “and have always looked to the organization for valuable information and leadership in advocating for the effective use of technology in the classroom. I got involved with SIGMS first by being on the SIG listserv. Later, I met the [then] chair, Peggy Milam Creighton, at a *School Library Journal* Summit in Chicago and we had the opportunity to connect.”

Perez is an area library coordinator for the Chicago Public Schools. “In my position, I support the high school librarians,” Perez says. “So I share information that might be useful to them



<http://www.iste.org/sigms>

in their jobs, learn about the great ways they are using technology, and also organize some technology-based professional development workshops.”

Perez is excited by new educational technologies, including the possibilities afforded by multi-user virtual environments. “There is a robust, evolving education community in Second Life that includes dozens of libraries and institutions of higher education. I have been working in it since last November and our department has a virtual office established there.”

Keeping up with the requirements of information literacy presents an opportunity and a challenge, according to Perez. “Librarians have a big opportunity to follow new Web 2.0 and Web 3.0 technologies and to make them relevant for their students,” she says. “The face of information literacy continues to change rapidly and some new technologies currently have steep learning curves.

“Librarians who work across the curriculum and grade levels are in a unique position to assume leadership roles in helping students and teachers integrate new technologies into instruction. Being prepared to lead in the use of these new technology resources is also our biggest challenge.”