

July, 2003

Welcome to the Web Institute for Teachers, 2003! This is our seventh summer and for some of you it is your second or third. We must be doing well to attract such good people back summer after summer! As for the first-timers, I think you are in for a great time. There are more of you than ever before. To accommodate you we have hired the largest group of mentors and lab assistants we have ever had, sought out the most labs and have developed a program that will allow people to go at their own pace and succeed in their own ways. You will learn a lot, meet great people, have fun and end up with a “product” you can use when school starts in September.



If you are a newcomer you may not realize that WIT is not truly about technology. We are pleased to teach you how to use technology as a tool, but WIT is really about teaching and learning. The technology you learn will be another way, and, we think, a very good way, to promote active learning by students and enhance the coaching role of teachers. Used properly, the computer can let you step back and watch as students take responsibility for their learning. The “sage on the stage” gives way to the “guide on the side” in a classroom where student involvement is not just a slogan.

Even though you will spend a lot of time this summer feeling inept as you wrestle your computer into compliance, we recognize you as the THINKER in the room. The real wrestling match will not be with the computer but with yourself as you gradually determine what you want from a class filled with living kids who may even be a jump ahead of you in the technology game. Reflecting on this and reaching good, solid conclusions is what goes on in a summer with WIT, regardless of what it might look to someone walking through the lab.

The book you hold in your hand (or see on your screen) was created by your mentors during their Spring training. In particular the pages were created by Connie Amon, Robin Brown, Carissa Bryant, Sharon Comstock, Darlyne Delaney, Edie Fabiyi, Bill Geraci, Lucy Gray, Lynnise Gool, Terry Jones, Pam Levitt, Mitchell Marks, Shaz Razul, Joy Reeves, Akisha Russell, Christie Thomas, Sharon Townsend, Michelle Warden and Nicole Zumpano. Frada Boxer and Jay Mulberry put it together for you.

If there is anything I can do to improve your summer experience, please don't hesitate to contact me, by phone at 773/702-4885 or by email at c-cunningham@uchicago.edu.

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