



PBS Teachers Advisory Group, 2007-2008

Anthony J. Augustin

Now in his 25th year of teaching, Anthony Augustin has spent more than half of his life serving the students of his rural Tennessee school system. During his tenure with the Lawrence County school system, Augustin has taught students in grades 7-12. He holds a Master of Arts in education from the University of North Alabama, and is working toward an educational specialist degree in educational leadership. Throughout his career as an educator, Augustin has focused on putting technology into the hands of his students. He has been recognized at local, state and national levels for his excellence in teaching, and in 2006, he was named a Joseph B. Whitehead Educator of Distinction by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation and honored with the Foundation for Rural Education and Development's Rural Teacher of the Year Award. He teaches physical, earth and environmental sciences at Loretto High School in Loretto, Tenn.

Babs L. Bengtson, Ph.D.

Babs L. Bengtson, Ph.D., is the director of educational services at Penn State Public Broadcasting (PSPB). Bengtson comes to PSPB with 20 years experience in education, winning national awards in instructional design and one national award for her research. She has worked for a variety of companies, including US Airways and Ford Motor Company, where she gained international instructional design experience. Bengtson created and managed her own company, Bridge Builders, for several years before joining Penn State University full time. After joining Penn State in 1998, Bengtson developed professional development programs for K-12 teachers, and has taught several courses for pre-service teachers, helping them learn how to incorporate multimedia in the classroom. Bengtson earned her Ph.D. in workforce education and training and development from Penn State in 1994, and a Master of Education in adult education, also from Penn State. She earned a Bachelors of Arts in history and English from Geneva College in Beaver Falls, Pa.

Kevin Clark

Dr. Kevin Clark is an associate professor and instructional technology program coordinator at George Mason University in Virginia. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees in computer science from North Carolina State University, and a Ph.D. in instructional systems from Pennsylvania State University. Prior to George Mason University, Dr. Clark worked for an educational software company and was a faculty member at San Jose State University. Dr. Clark's corporate experience included positions as a software tester, consultant, content designer, program manager, and founder/director of a non-profit youth program. Dr. Clark's research interests include the application of instructional design principles and learning theories to the design and development of online learning environments. Dr. Clark is also interested in the integration of technology into non-formal learning environments as well as issues related to digital equity.

Traci Feldhousen

Traci Feldhousen is beginning her fourth year homeschooling her two children, currently a third grader and a kindergartener. She graduated from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Va. with a double degree in history and Russian language. Over the past few years, she has been a participant in several educational cooperatives and is currently one of the leaders of her local homeschool support group.

Jane Ching Fung

Jane Ching Fung has over 24 years of experience in the field of teaching and learning. She is in her 21st year of teaching for the Los Angeles Unified School District and currently teaches full-day kindergarten at the Alexander Science Center School in Exposition Park. She has facilitated professional development in early literacy at the school, district and state level. Ching Fung is an active member of the Center for the Future of Teaching and Learning, serves on the board of the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future, and The Larchmont Charter School in Los Angeles. She is a 2002 Milken Educator, National Board Certified, and holds a master's degree in curriculum and instruction (reading and language arts). In 2001, Ching Fung served on Governor Guinn's Education Commission of the States' Early Literacy Council and was a member of the Independent Citizens for California's Children Committee. Her research with Teachers Network Leadership Institute (TNLI) on new teacher collaboration is included in TNLI's book, "Taking Action with Teacher Research."

Mary Henton

Since joining National Middle School Association in 1999, Mary Henton has had several positions with the association, from director of professional development to director of integrated media initiatives (current). Henton is responsible for providing direction about leveraging technology and media to benefit the association and its stakeholders. Henton's entire career has been in education. She has been an English teacher, outdoor education teacher, adventure and experiential education trainer and curriculum developer, and consultant in team development and learning. She has a Bachelor of Arts in English from Gordon College and a Master in Education from Harvard University, Graduate School of Education.

Eric Hoefler

Eric Hoefler taught English and creative writing at Woodbridge Senior High School's Center for the Fine and Performing Arts (CFPA) in Woodbridge, Va. for the past nine years. While there, he helped to design and implement the CFPA program and the Center's four-year creative writing program. In 1999, he created a community-based Web site for teachers of English and creative writing at the school, which originally connected students through forum discussions but grew to include profiles, blogs and file sharing. During that time, Hoefler also helped to develop and teach an online creative writing course as part of the county's Virtual High School initiative. In 2001, Eric became the technology liaison for the Northern Virginia Writing Project (NVWP), housed at George Mason University. Through that service, he has helped to integrate online technologies into the Project's work and has led numerous workshops that help teachers to understand how emerging online technologies can further improve the teaching of writing. Currently, Hoefler is working with a contracting agency for the Children's Bureau to help bring online solutions to the Child Welfare Reform Project, and he continues to work with teachers through his role with NVWP.

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Don Jepsen-Minyard

Don Jepsen-Minyard has taught at Crescent Valley High School in Corvallis, Ore. since 1990. Currently, he designs and teaches courses related to images: graphic design, interactive design, photography, and a new, team-taught English course, story and film. Throughout his career, He has maintained an interest both in designing instruction and in personal development. He created a video class for high school students in conjunction with the Journalism department at Oregon State University and the Northwest Film Center. He completed the Film Center's Media Arts for Teachers program. For two academic years, he collaborated with Bob Madar, winner of the Christine McAuliffe grant, to design and implement project-based curriculum. Two of his students produced "People of the Walamala," a video about the ethnobotany of the Kalapuya Indians, which has been added to many University library collections in the Pacific Northwest. He worked briefly as a consultant for JD Hoyer, formerly the national director of the Federal School to Work program, to design video-based training materials.

Gregg Legutki

Gregg Legutki is a lead project specialist for California Technology Assistance Project (CTAP) in Southern California, covering Riverside, Inyo, Mono, and San Bernardino Counties. Prior to working for CTAP, Legutki was a classroom teacher for over 25 years, mostly in special education. Legutki started out using technology in the classroom with the original Apple for the Teacher Program in the early '80s. He was a technology mentor both at the district and school site level. Legutki has been involved with technology integration for classroom use for well over 20 years. In his current position, he works with schools and districts developing workshops for teachers and site administrators on effective classroom technology integration. He also teaches a teacher prep class for Chapman University on technology integration.

Marnie Lewis

Marnie Lewis received a Bachelor of Science in elementary education from Northeastern University, and has completed graduate work in instructional technology through George Mason University. She has taught in third, fifth and eighth grade classrooms over the past 10 years. She is currently entering her third year as an instructional technology coordinator for Arlington Public Schools in Virginia. Her role affords her the opportunity to review and evaluate educational sites and software to enhance instruction. She works directly with staff on a daily basis designing and teaching technology-infused lessons.

Dan McDowell

Dan McDowell has spent the last 11 years teaching social studies at West Hills. During that time, he has actively been involved in technology integration at the local, state and national levels, giving numerous workshops and presentations on variety of topics including WebQuests, blogs, wikis, and digital video. Most recently, McDowell presented at the National Education Computing Conference in San Diego. In 2002, he was named Classroom Connect's Internet Educator for the Year for the Western United States. In Spring 2006, he completed his Master of Arts in educational technology at San Diego State University (SDSU), and was awarded the privilege of representing the graduating class as the honor graduate for the department. This fall he was hired by SDSU to teach a graduate level seminar on digital video.

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Susim Munshi

Susim Munshi is a senior analyst, technology planning and integration, for Chicago Public Schools Office of Technology Services-eLearning. Munshi has over 20 years of experience working with students, teachers and administrators. In his current position, Munshi assists schools with professional development, curriculum design, technology planning, and grant writing. Munshi has presented at numerous state and national conferences on cutting edge technology integration solutions in classrooms.

Alicia Narvaez

Alicia Narvaez is the creator and director of the "Virtual Pre-K & K" program, a national multimedia parent involvement initiative based out of the Chicago Public Schools Office of Early Childhood Education. She is responsible for overall program development and implementation in Chicago and with school districts in Illinois, Texas, California, Colorado and Nevada. In May 2006, the Virtual K program was awarded the Codie Award for "Best Instructional Solution: Students at Home." Prior to her current work in public education, Narvaez spent a decade in educational television and media production. Her credits include work for the Discovery Channel, National Geographic Television, CBS News, NOVA, and the BBC.

Sara Reibman

Sara Reibman is a librarian at Biblioteca Las Américas where she works with the staff and students of the Science Academy and the South Texas High School for Health Professions, both magnet schools in the Rio Grande Valley. Reibman works on the BLA web site, the ¡VIVA! Peer Tutor Program, online services, and photo classes. In 2006, her library won the National School Library Media Program of the Year award from the American Association of School Librarians, and she received the Information Technology Pathfinder of the Year award from the same institution. Reibman received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Maryland and her M.L.I.S. from Texas Woman's University.

Annie Schleicher

Annie Schleicher is an associate editor for NewsHour Extra, the teen site for the Online NewsHour with Jim Lehrer. Prior to joining the NewsHour, she was a high school English teacher and Peace Corps volunteer in Mongolia.

Bob Sprankle

Bob Sprankle is a graduate of the University of Southern Maine. He has been a 3/4 multi-age teacher in Wells, Maine for 10 years, and now serves as the school's technology integrator. He was involved with the SEED group in Maine as a technology learning leader and helped train the first wave of teachers using laptops for the seventh and eighth grade Maine Learning Technology Initiative. Sprankle was awarded Maine's Technology Teacher of the Year award in 2006 from Association of Computer Technology Educators of Maine. His students have received world-wide recognition for their "Room 208 Podcast," and have appeared in numerous articles, including The New York Times and Apple's Education Site. Sprankle has his own podcast ("Bit by Bit") to help teachers incorporate technology into their classrooms.

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Sandy St. Louis

Sandy St. Louis is educational outreach manager for FRONTLINE where she develops content for the FRONTLINE Teacher Center, an online destination that offers lesson plans and activities to teachers. Prior to joining FRONTLINE, she worked for nearly a decade in documentary film and video distribution to the educational marketplace.

Ceit Zweil

Ceit Zweil is a producer of kids' Web sites at WGBH in Boston. After five years at the helm of the highly-acclaimed ARTHUR Web site, she is currently producing the companion site for the new kids engineering series DESIGN SQUAD. She has worked with PBS to pilot new Parents & Teachers editorial guidelines on ARTHUR (and continued efforts to deliver rich supporting online content for grown-ups as producer of the CURIOUS GEORGE Parents & Teachers area. Zweil has served as project manager and content producer for several other WGBH-produced sites, including ZOOM, TIME WARP TRIO, AMERICAN EXPERIENCE's WAYBACK, and the ARTHUR/Children's Hospital Boston portal for kids. She has a Bachelor of Arts in European history from Smith College, and a Master of Arts in theatre education (with a focus on interdisciplinary education through the arts) from Emerson College. Prior to WGBH, Zweil developed an interdisciplinary arts/science curriculum for a local education company.

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