Safari With a Side Order of Service

ntel-ebration is an example of what can happen when creative people collaborate and dare to dream. The concept began as an idea for linking SDA teachers and students in multigrade classrooms through effective teaching strategies and E-mail technology. As the idea developed, it emerged as a way to use good teaching techniques to focus instruction on a high-interest event that carried elementary students along an unforgettable learning journey. Implementation required a great deal of collaboration—and presented unexpected opportunities for service.

The original design of the Intel-ebration program called for a thematic curriculum designed around scientific themes. The learning activities in the unit would utilize cooperative learning and Howard Gardner's multiple intelligence theory to enable multigrade students to complete a self-directed project. The projects would be displayed at school and photographed, then posted on the Internet.

While the design was theoretically sound, it seemed to lack "pizzazz." This problem was solved when I joined Carole Kilcher and Don May on an advisory committee for master's student Sharon Prest, who wanted to combine communication, technology, and education in an interdisciplinary degree. She expressed interest in going on Don's African safari and in the Andrews University photography program. As the committee discussed Sharon's strengths and interests, I suddenly realized that we could combine the Intel-ebration idea with the Photo Safari as a virtual field trip experience for elementary students. Pow! The energy began to flow.

As lead curriculum developer for the thematic unit, I collaborated with three other individuals. We developed a series of 24 activities clustered around three scientific themes: exploration, variation, and growth. Sharon developed 12 activities to teach children about photography. Marcel Sargaent, an Andrews graduate student in Curriculum and Instruction, compiled a list of additional learning activities and Internet Web sites relating to Kenya and East Africa. Patricia Bryant, a graduate assistant and certified teacher, compiled a bibliography of children's literature related to the African safari site.

While the curriculum was being developed, Carole suggested that I add a service component. After some thought, I applied for a grant from the university committee that oversees the Upton Foundation service-learning incentives in order to use Intel-ebration as a service-learning opportunity in my science teaching methods classes. My students were to develop lessons connected with one of the Intel-ebration themes and organize the class as a speaker's

bureau. Community teachers who were involved in the Intel-ebration program could invite my students into their classrooms as guest presenters.

As the project developed, more and more volunteers became involved. Dan May recruited another Andrews staffer, Andy McConnell, to create Web pages to ensure continued interaction among the photo team and with me. As photo students scheduled for the safari learned more about Sharon's project, they asked if they could be involved. In the weeks prior to the trip, the photo team presented a "safari preview" to more than 200 local elementary students. Photo students agreed to be "personal

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Intel-ebration students discover the World Wide Web.

contacts" for individual children and to answer their questions during the safari. This interaction continued even after the photo team returned to the campus from Africa. Though not required to do so, the AU students devoted hours of their time to make the Intel-ebration project work.

Although there were technical difficulties during the safari (only one satellite transmission was successful), the many hours of volunteer labor enabled us to implement the Intel-ebration program with a budget of only $5,900, $4,000 of which went for remote satellite uplink rental!

Any teachers interested in taking their class on a virtual safari to Kenya via our Web site or in participating in next year's Intel-ebration can contact Larry Burton at Bell Hall, 014, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104-0114: or E-mail: burton@andrews.edu. You can link to the Photo Safari Web site through the Intel-ebration home page at http://www.educ.andrews.edu/burton/intel.html. — Larry Burton.

Larry Burton is Assistant Professor of Teacher Education in the School of Education at Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan.