

## Faculty Honors their Technology Skills for the Classroom

Covering all the technical aspects of the Harker curriculum is nearly impossible, but we do try to provide a nice cross section each month. Here is a roundup, including more reports on the summer technology grant uses, and a technology seminar recently held to assist teachers in streaming video to their classrooms effectively.

■ US teacher **Pauline Paskali** worked on a WebQuest for her English 2/British Literature students during her tech grant week. "I call it 'Questing the Web for Shakespeare,'" said Paskali. "It is a multi-disciplinary research project in which the students visit a series of literary, historical, theatrical and fine arts sites, analyze or evaluate their content, and create an annotated timeline compilation of their discoveries."

Paskali has just introduced the process to her classes. "Students are working on it right now. They are doing a great job thus far," she said.

■ MS history teacher **Cyrus Merrill** started with a desire simply to have all of his class materials and activities online. "I also wanted my students to interact more with one another; therefore, I spent my summer learning to use several different technologies so that my kids could work together and debate with one another," Merrill said.

"They are using forums and wikis on a regular basis to debate one another, communicate with one another and to share information. This



is shifting the inquiry and discovery of material from one centered around the teacher to one where the students are much more

involved with finding, debating and presenting information," Merrill continued, adding that he expects his students to publish much of the material that they are responsible for knowing and teaching to each other.

*Editor's note: According to Wikipedia, the online encyclopedia: "A wiki is a type of Web site that allows the visitors themselves to easily add, remove and otherwise edit and change some available content. This ease of interaction and operation*

*makes a wiki an effective tool for collaborative authoring."*

■ Interested faculty attended one of two workshops on United Streaming Video in October. This was a hands-on meeting where teachers created curriculum they could implement right away. According to its Web site, the online company has a library of "more than 5,000 videos from Discovery Channel, BBC, Math Mastery, and others - including more than 1,000 new videos in subject areas including foreign language, secondary math, science and language arts." The workshop was set up by Harker's technology department. **Dan Hudkins**, the director of instructional technology, said, "United Streaming's online video collection is truly impressive. There is something for everyone."

## Internet Dangers Explained in Presentations to Students and Parents

In the never-ending effort to keep Harker students updated and aware of issues arising from use of the Internet, Harker has held informational student assemblies in the LS, as well as meetings for parents, to ensure students and parents work together to stay Internet-safe.

On Nov. 9, two LS assemblies were held utilizing the NetSmartz program, a nationwide program to educate children and parents on the dangers of using the Internet improperly. Students were warned about the dangers

of contacting strangers through the Internet and other hazards via animation, music, demonstrations and real-life stories to teach different levels of students the dangers they could encounter online, and what to do.

Children were taught to tell a trusted adult if they come across anything online that makes them feel scared, uncomfortable or confused; never to share personal information, such as a telephone number, address, name, location or school with someone online; never to meet in person with anyone that

they have first met online; and never to respond to messages that are mean or make them feel scared, uncomfortable or confused.

On Nov. 14, a presentation was held on Internet Safety for parents of fourth through eighth graders by the San Jose Police Force's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC)

task force. Task force representatives provided information on the risks, victim and predator profiling, and what parents can do to keep their children safe.

Additional Internet safety assemblies for students and parents are planned, including an MS student assembly on Dec. 1, and a presentation for MS and US parents on Feb. 9.



## Delicious 'Thank You' to Faculty

A kind thank you to Harker faculty was offered by two mothers in conjunction with Eid ul-Fitr, the Islamic holiday that marks the end of Ramadan. The women arranged for a delicious meal of traditional foods to be served to faculty and staff at both the MS and US. Many thanks to **Ambreen Jamal (Mahum, Gr. 9)** and **Gazala Sadiq (Zaynah, Gr. 9)**.



"Many of our Muslim families wish to share the message of Eid, to express gratitude for our blessings, by expressing their gratitude to Harker MS faculty and staff. They continue the tradition begun last year of providing special luncheon treats traditional to the holiday," said **Cindi Kerr**, head of the MS.

## New Alumni Council Formed

We're pleased to announce the formation of Harker's first-ever Alumni Development Council. Since this is the council's first year, we are focusing on alumni classes with reunion years in 2007: Class of 1982 (MS), Class of 1992 (MS) and the Class of 2002 (our first graduating class from the US).

These dedicated alumni are busy getting back in touch with former classmates and are fundraising on behalf of The Harker Fund, which pays for the school's "Margin of Excellence" programs benefiting all students. Please join us in acknowledging these class agents:

Class of 1982: **Keil Albert (Co-Lead Agent)**, **Tina Johnson-Murray (Co-Lead Agent)**, **Pat Walsh (Honorary Class Agent)**; Class of 1992: **Amanda Elias (Lead Agent)**, **Julie Amerian Johnson**, **Meredith Harrington Hiltgen**, **Daniel Nevis**, **Vicky Viso**, **Liz Williams**; Class of 2002: **Carmen Antoun (Lead Agent)**, **Leena Bhalerao**, **Ana Brar**, **Elnora Hawley**, **Lestio Hernandez**, **Sunil Subhedar**. Special thanks to these alumni for their time and dedication to Harker!