

Computer Technology Impacting St. John-Ocala

The 2005-2006 academic year ushered in a dramatic change in the classrooms at St. John Lutheran High School-Ocala, FL: all students and teachers now have their own laptop computers.

James Craven, veteran St. John teacher and doctoral degree candidate, is heading up the Lap Top Initiative (LTI) program at the school. He summarizes the program as the "marriage of traditional rigorous education to today's technology in a supportive Christian environment."

He continued, "Computers will not replace the well-tested ways of teaching and learning, but will provide an exciting tool, with vast potential for both teachers and learners. More than ever before, computer technology is making the world our classroom!"

According to Craven, "The use of technology teaches students 'to learn how to learn' rather than simply learning facts. It encourages students to be more responsible for their own learning while fostering more group interaction."

St. John Principal Debbie Heath reported that it's not a simple process to introduce lap top computers to a school.

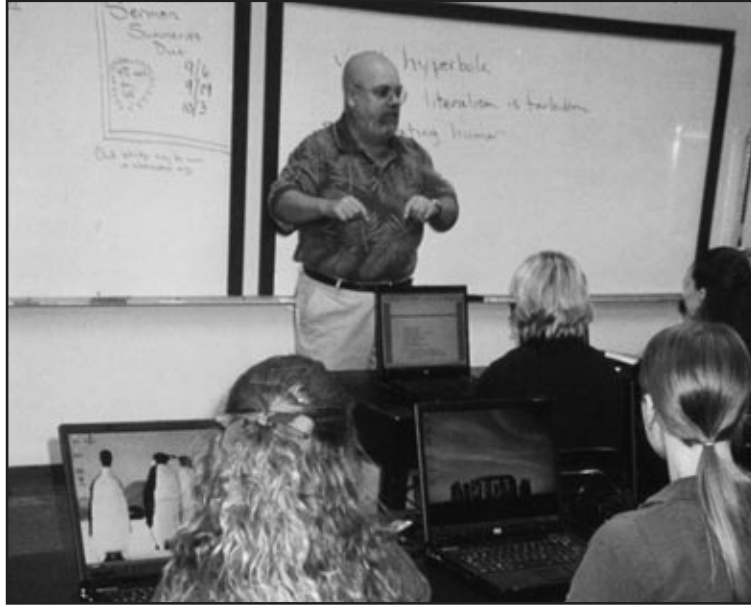
"It's a process that teaches patience," she said. "As St. John upgrades its computer system, the steps in this task involve countless details."

"It is a process that involved and continues to involve a committee of teachers and administrators who are leading the way — over a year of planning before computer and student met each other officially."

She emphasized, "The results are well worth the effort. Besides the obvious academic

advancements, students will be much more involved in other aspects of their high school life, such as their personal college admissions process. In addition, parents will have ready access to information as they chart their youngster's academic progress."

The overarching goal of the LTI is to provide lessons for the students that more effectively arouse curiosity and push them to a higher level of knowledge.

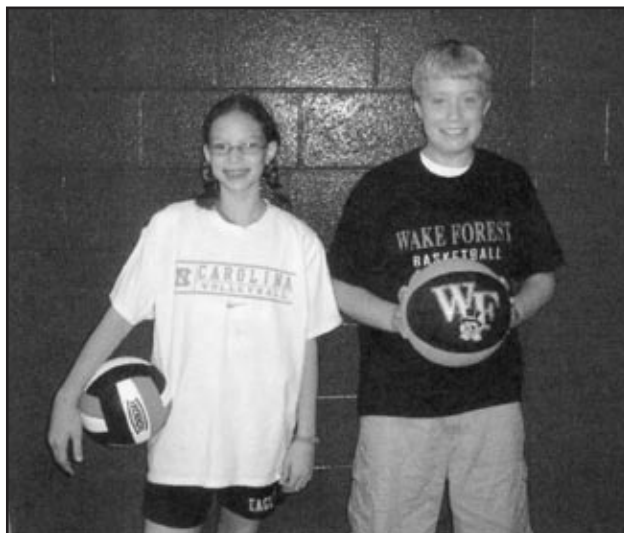


Jim Craven, Lap Top Initiative coordinator and chair of the Religion Department at St. John Lutheran High School, leads his New Testament class utilizing individual student laptop computers. Craven enjoys "being able to present four Bible translations side by side" as he and the students study God's Word.



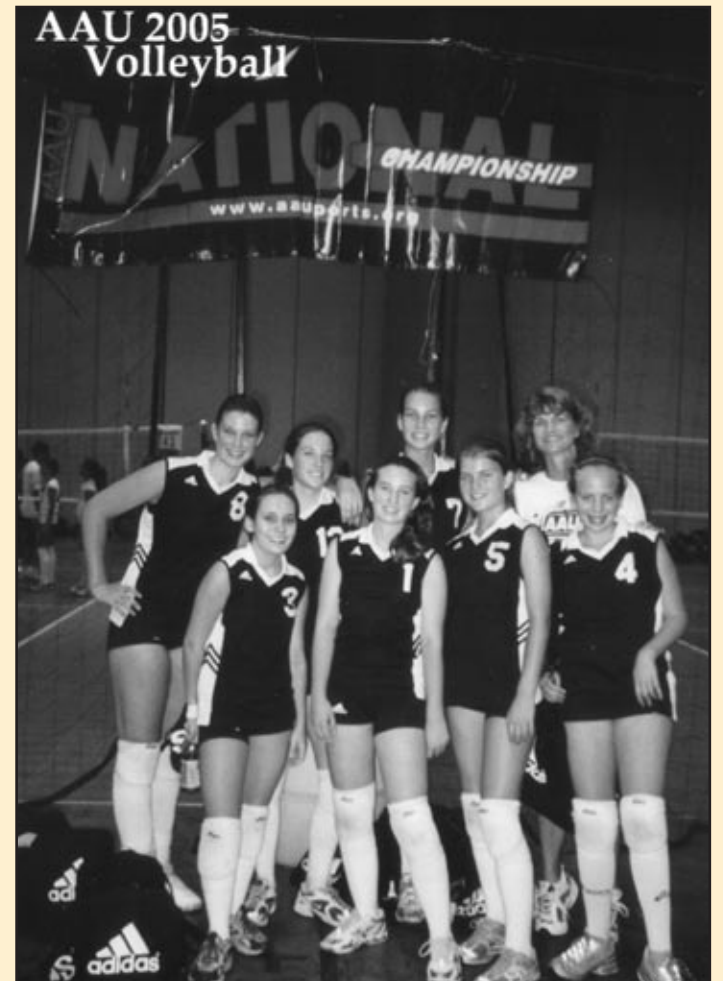
FREE ENTERPRISE CELEBRATION — Students from St. Paul Lutheran Church and School-Boca Raton, FL, were among the participants in the September 16 groundbreaking for the Junior Achievement's Huizenga Center for Free Enterprise. The Center is being built on four acres at the north campus of Broward Community College in Coconut Creek. Junior Achievement will construct and develop the programs Enterprise Village and Finance Park at this site. Shown here, shovels in hand, are St. Paul students (left to right) Aaron Green, Caroline Mersch, Garret Franskousky, Sarah Miskel, Ashlan Bishop and Jennie Bassett. □

WINNING WRITERS — Two students from Faith Lutheran School-Marietta, GA, were recently chosen as winners of the Gatorade "Get Kids in Action" Scholarship Contest. Some 300 children across the United States were selected from essays written and sent in during the 2004-05 school year. Faith fifth graders Rebecca Arndt and Thomas Pietro were chosen based on their essays, "How Do You Like to Be Active and Why?" Entries were not judged based on athletic ability or skill of the student, but rather on creativity, adherence to the theme of the active lifestyle and sincerity in the essay presentation. Their winning essays enabled both Rebecca and Thomas to attend week-long sports camps, of their choice, at a sponsor college or university during the month of July. Rebecca attended a volleyball camp at the University of North Carolina, while Thomas set his sights on basketball at Wake Forest. □



"The LTI will encourage students to learn by doing and to interact with one another," said Richard Rath, St. John Executive Director. "The classrooms of St. John Lutheran High School are

to be places that motivate and inspire students to seek more and more knowledge by showing them that they can have fun in the search." □



GOLD DIVISION CHAMPS — The St. Paul Lutheran Church and School-Lakeland, FL, girls volleyball team took first place in the Gold Division at the AAU National Championship Volleyball competition in Orlando, FL, this fall. Shown here are team members (front, left to right) Tori Shannon, Kaley Rhoden, Lauren Andersen, Amber Wadford, (back, left to right) Claessa Brekke, Amy Garland, Krista Andersen and Coach Lynn Andersen. □

St. Mark's Welcomes New Teachers

John Dresser and Stacy Lessman were commissioned and installed as teachers at St. Mark's Lutheran Church and School-Hollywood, FL, on Sunday, August 21.

The festive worship service featured specific liturgy identifying the Christian education ministry of St. Mark's. Florida-Georgia District Executive Director for School Ministries Mark Brink officiated at the Commissioning Service; Rev. George E. Poulos, Jr. installed the new teachers.

Dresser, a graduate of Concordia College-Bronxville, is the school's new sixth grade teacher. Lessman, who graduated from Concordia University-St. Paul, is teaching first grade. They join a staff that includes six other rostered Concordia University graduates.

With the beginning of the 2005-2006 school year on August 22, St. Mark's entered its 49th year of school ministry at the same Hollywood location. □



Shown after the installation service are (left to right) Mark Brink, Florida-Georgia District Executive Director for School Ministries; Stacy Lessman, St. Mark's first-grade teacher; John Dresser, St. Mark's sixth-grade teacher; Jim Essig, St. Mark's Principal; and Rev. George E. Poulos, Jr., St. Mark's Senior Pastor