

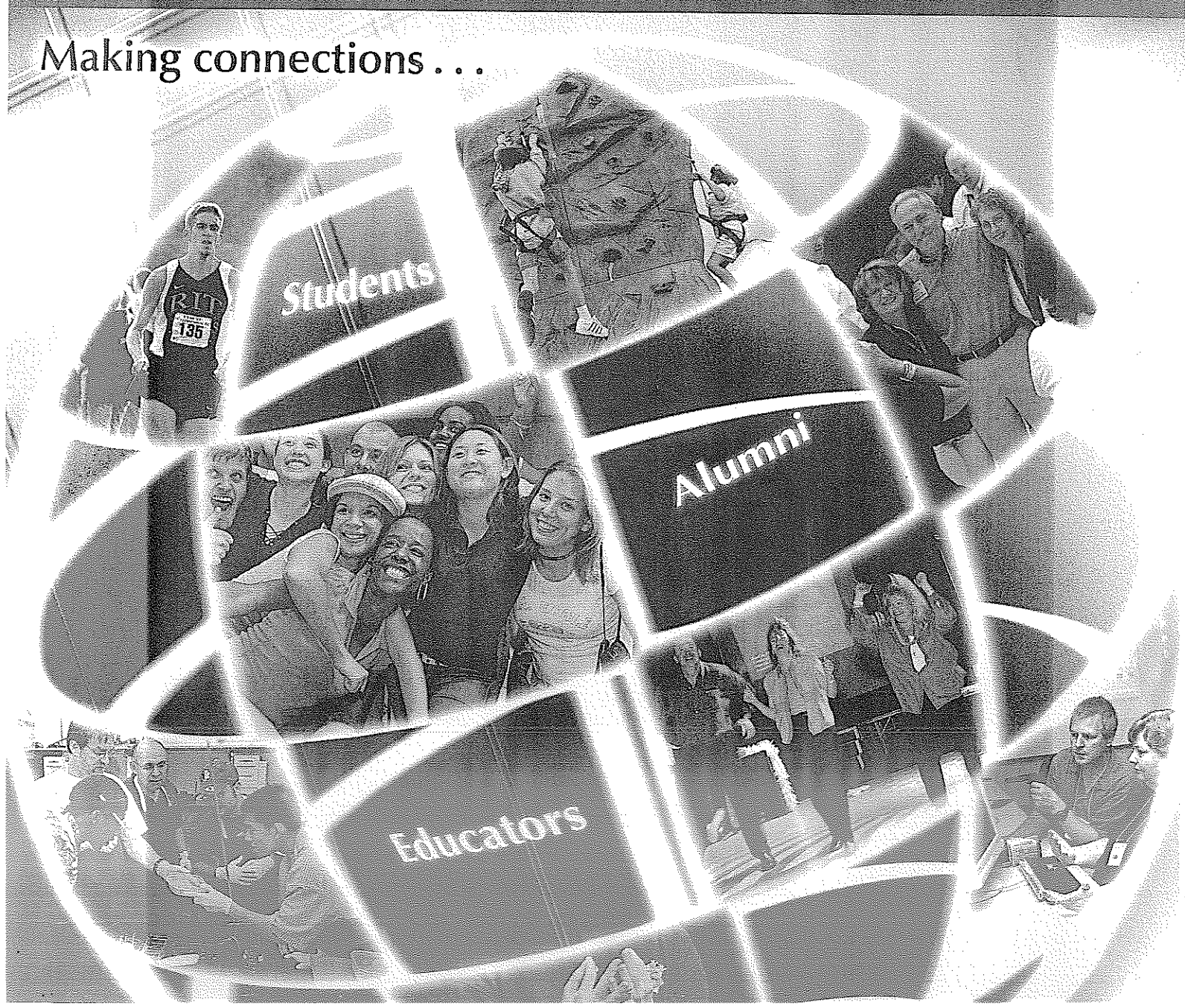
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# FOCUS

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Making connections . . .



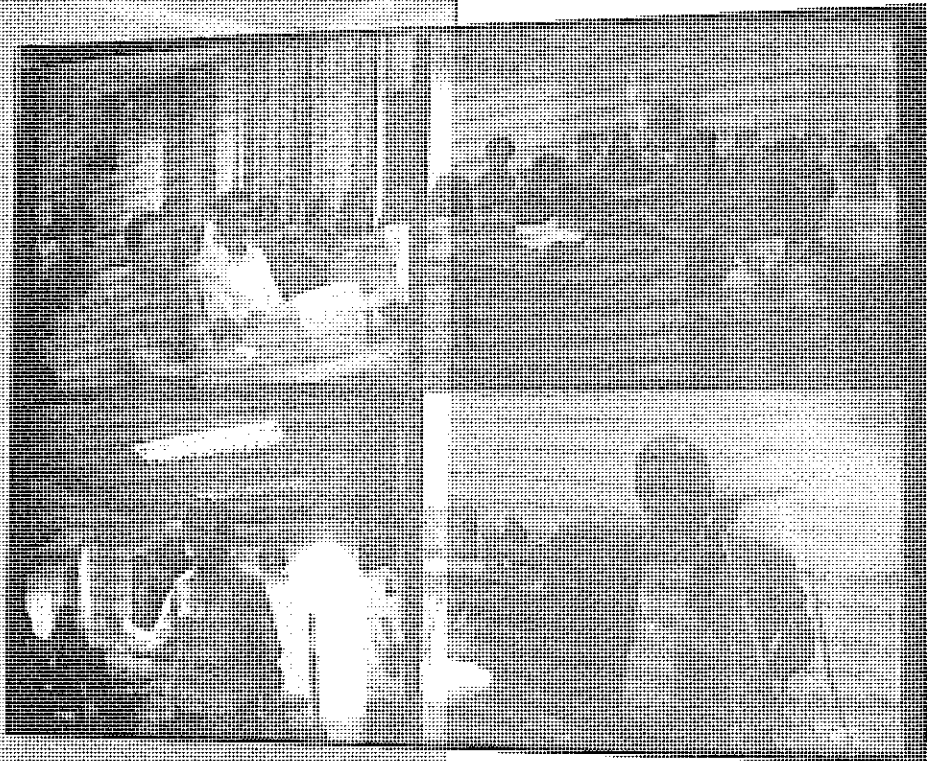
# Technology's Promise Unites Educators Around the World

Even though they represented 12 different countries, the 275 people who gathered at NTIE last summer had at least one thing in common—they each shared a hunger for new knowledge and skills regarding innovative uses of educational technology for teaching

By Karen F. McHugh

As the 21st century unfolds, it will bring out-of-control innovations. They will continue to have profound implications for education in particular and civilization and environment in general. While in general, all people of every nation and every background

Dr. Alan Shaw, researcher



from Pacific Islander, Amerindian and Eskimo to European, African, Asian, Hispanic, and Arab, will be affected. The innovations will come from Pacific and European nations, from the United States, from the Middle East, from Africa, from Asia, from Europe, from the Americas, from the Caribbean, from the Pacific, from the Arctic, from the Antarctic, from the North Pole, from the South Pole, from the equator, from the tropics, from the temperate zone, from the desert, from the mountains, from the plains, from the valleys, from the hills, from the forests, from the oceans, from the atmosphere, from the lithosphere, from the hydrosphere, from the biosphere, from the geosphere, from the cryosphere, from the atmosphere, from the lithosphere, from the hydrosphere, from the biosphere, from the geosphere, from the cryosphere.

deaf students. That's what brought them to the Biennial International Symposium on Instructional Technology and Education of the Deaf.

"This conference has been on my calendar for over a year," said Pamela Fletcher, Technology Outreach Support coordinator for Texas School for the Deaf (TSD). "Conferences like this are very much needed. A lot of teachers are scared of technology—they don't know what's out there, or how to access it."

Fletcher plans to share some of the skills she learned during the conference with teachers at TSD—for example, how to incorporate IMovie 3 technology into K-12 curricula.



**Digital Video** NTID Instructor Troy Olivier demonstrates captioning for digital video to Pamela Fletcher, of Texas, during a workshop at the symposium.



NTID hosted the symposium and co-sponsored it with the Postsecondary Education Network-International (PEN-International) and The Nippon Foundation of Japan. The five-day event included 16 pre-symposium hands-on workshops emphasizing how technology can make a difference in the teaching-learning process, presentations by nearly 50 speakers, 24 poster sessions, and 13 commercial exhibits, benefiting the international audience of teachers and administrators.

Ron Brouillette, Ph.D., advisor on education of individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing for CBM (Christoffel Blind Mission) International in India, attended a workshop about digital video technology, where he learned how it can enhance curricula, encourage teamwork, and improve communication and organizational skills.

"The program covered a range of information that was highly relevant," he said, "and also information that was beyond me, but that's good, because it keeps me reaching."

Three PEN-International partners—two in China and one in the Philippines—conducted seminars using videoconferencing technology.

"More than 70 Chinese and Filipino participants simultaneously joined NTID professors Doug McKenzie and Pat Billies in workshops on digital videoconferencing and deaf role models," said Bill Clymer, symposium chair and coordinator of PEN-International. "These four-way trans-Pacific interactive seminars were a smashing success."

"We are indeed very fortunate that we have been successfully linked up," said Cherry Maderazo, faculty member, DeLaSalle University—College of Saint Benilde, Manila, Philippines. "Our participants were inspired—especially with the success stories [of deaf Americans] presented."

The international videoconferences and Internet video streaming "are only two of the many technological applications available to educators that we wanted to highlight during the symposium," says James J. DeCaro, director of PEN-International. "More than ever before, today's technological advances are eliminating international boundaries and barriers to learning, especially for deaf people. For example, every paper presented at the symposium now is available on the Web in captioned video and text."

Dr. Vint Cerf, one of the symposium's plenary speakers and widely known as one of the fathers of the Internet, believes that as we network our vast resources, barriers to learning and communication will be eliminated altogether.

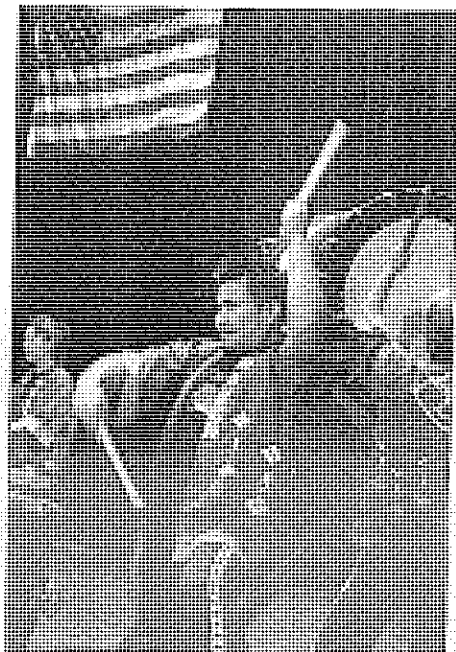
"Standards are evolving that permit the substitution of one modality for another," Cerf says. "Speech to text, text to speech or to Braille, and

other cross-media translations now are available."

Dr. Alan Shaw, another of the plenary speakers and a researcher who focuses on using technology to foster both social development and urban renewal, summarized the significant impact of the symposium.

"The symposium showed us many developments in new learning environments and learning technologies," he says. "As these developments continue to bring our minds together, they will continue to have profound ramifications for deaf education in particular, and educational and socioeconomic advancement in general, for people of every nation and every background."

NTID and PEN-International plan to co-host the next symposium in June 2005. To view captioned video or text of this year's symposium, please visit [www.rit.edu/~techsym/](http://www.rit.edu/~techsym/).



**Symposium participants** took a break from the world of high-technology one evening to enjoy performances by three of the world-famous Taiko drummer troupes, who performed courtesy of The Nippon Taiko Foundation. Two hearing and one deaf troupe delighted the crowd with their vibrant, acrobatic, and colorful percussion performance.