

Reflecting on a Golden Opportunity



By Clif Mims

In fall 2002 I was awarded the ECT Foundation's Strohbehn Internship for the AECT Convention in Dallas, TX. Being a conference intern was and continues to be a valuable experience. I was excited when the ECT Foundation recently asked me to write this reflection about what the award has meant to my participation within AECT and to my career. However, I have found it difficult to articulate the magnitude of the internship's impact within the limitations of this column.

The internship initially provided me with an all access, behind the scenes pass during the 2002 convention to gain first-hand experience in the areas that interested me. I was able to become acquainted with individuals who shared common teaching and research interests as well as those in leadership positions that I might someday wish to pursue. My time as an intern showed me that AECT encourages its membership to become actively involved in the association. The award set the stage from which I could begin to do just that. Here are a couple of examples.

- I greatly value the conference leadership internship program and wanted to continue to con-



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tribute to it. I made Joanne Bentley, then coordinator of the program, aware of my interest and this led to me becoming a co-coordinator the very next year. I have continued to serve in the program ever since.

- As one that is interested in teacher education I made a point to attend the Teacher Education Division's meetings and activities. I spent an afternoon shadowing then TED officers Sharon Smaldino and Mary Herring. They introduced me to many individuals with common interests, helped me become more knowledgeable about both

AECT and TED, and encouraged me to "jump right on in." A year later I found myself elected as TED's Communications Officer.

In retrospect it seems that my internship experience jump-started my engagement in AECT. The results of my ECT award are not easily calculated. The benefits continue to be enjoyed and even seem to be multiplying. The experience caused me to become an active member within AECT. Job opportunities, research and publication collaborations, presentations, leadership opportunities, friendships, and much, much more have all come as a result, rather directly or indirectly, of my involvement in the association. I have also found a number of colleagues that serve as mentors to whom I can go for advice. My involvement continues to open new doors of possibilities and provides me with great avenues with which to help others become actively engaged, too.

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A Report from the ect Foundation

By Addie Kinsinger, ect President

The theme for the ECT Foundation at the 2006 convention was "A Celebration of Achievement," in recognition of the many awesome volunteers who are found working in all facets of AECT.

I spent a lot of time in front of and around the ECT exhibit tables in the hallway and had many opportunities to reconnect with longtime colleagues and to make some new friends. My fellow trustees on the Foundation Board were busy hawking raffle tickets for the \$1000 laptop computer we gave away at a drawing at the awards session. Fund raising is a major responsibility of any foundation and is of special significance to the ECT Foundation this year and next as our capital campaign advances.

The ECT table displays featured photographs of past and present in-

terns. This year we were able to increase the amount of the stipend given to each of the interns from \$500 to \$700. The internships are of great value to AECT because they directly impact leadership development. Past interns have been writing articles for TechTrends about the leadership opportunities internships provided them. The grad students who are selected as interns also work very hard in a variety of supporting roles at convention where they gain a real insight into the association. It is a pleasure to see so many of them take the next step on their own. This year's interns have decided to form a loose-knit group to include interns from previous years. They are designing a project that will keep them visible and involved. They have also determined to join the effort of the ECT Foundation's "Building the Future of Educational Communications and Technology" capital campaign. Congratulations to them!

The winner of the 2006 ECT Foundation Mentor Endowment Scholarship is Laura Hummell of East Carolina University. She is a doctoral student and also a teacher in the local middle school. Congratulations, Laura!

The ECT Foundation hosted a wine and cheese reception, "A Celebration of Achievement," to recognize members of AECT who willingly surpass the expectations of the task assigned them or for which they volunteer, and for all who honor us with their work. We plan to continue this reception as an annual event.

All of the ECT Foundation trustees are AECT members. Some have been president of AECT, some will be in the future. Some have been interns, and some recent interns will be trustees in the future. The foundation enjoys supporting our interns and award winners who will become the future leaders of the association.



ect Foundation Endowment Capital Campaign:

A Virtual Building for the Future of Educational Technology

Lofty words for a lofty cause! The ECT Foundation and AECT have launched a project to build up the funding base of the endowment that traditionally supplies the money for scholarships, fellowships and leadership development activities within AECT. The realistic goal of **\$50,000** to be raised over a period of three years offers AECT members the opportunity to support both the activities of the Foundation and the AECT goals.

With **\$21,000** already pledged to the campaign (primarily from the Boards of the Foundation and AECT), Foundation President Addie Kinsinger encourages AECT members to follow the Board leadership, contributing at whatever level they decide.

The Virtual Building Construction concept

AECT members are encouraged to "buy bricks, or a window, or a column," toward construction of a virtual building representing the enthusiasm and dedication of professionals within the educational communications and technology field. As support grows at varying levels of contributions, the new endowment virtual building will rise before our eyes. Names of contributors or honorees will be imprinted on the building parts as it rises (unless an individual donor wishes to remain anonymous). Groups and/or divisions may contribute in recognition of a mentor or an entire faculty that they wish to honor. ECT Foundation is a 501-c-3 non-profit organization, so the guaranteed contribution receipt will serve well at tax time.

**The ECT Foundation challenges AECT members to be builders of the future.
Feel good about raising the roof!**