



Press Releases | StevensViews | StevensViewsRadio | Technogenesis.Tv

Logo & Graphics | Archives | Contact



News Service

March 18, 2004

Contact:
Patrick A. Berzinski
(201) 216-5687
pberzins@stevens.edu

"Noon Day Project" takes measure of earth, gains recognition from Eisenhower National Clearinghouse

HOBOKEN, N.J. - At Stevens Institute of Technology, an interactive K-12 Internet project offers teachers and students an opportunity to recreate an amazing experiment performed more than 2,200 years ago by Eratosthenes, the chief librarian in Alexandria, Egypt, who made a remarkably accurate measurement of the earth's north-south circumference.

Calling for online collaboration among teachers and students from schools throughout the world, "The Noon Day Project" asks participants to measure the length of a shadow cast by a stick a meter long; to share this data electronically; to use scale drawings and a spreadsheet to make comparisons; and to use this information to estimate the circumference of the earth.

This activity is an opportunity for students to see how mathematics and science work together in explaining a real world phenomenon.

"The Noon Day Project," coordinated by Ihor Charischak, is one of many originated at Stevens' Center for Innovation in Engineering and Science Education (CIESE) which have received national and international recognition for their ability to connect with and instruct students the world over. Most recently, the Noon Day Project and Charischak were featured in the current issue of ENC Focus, the web magazine of the Eisenhower National Clearinghouse for Mathematics and Science Education, an important information source on innovative international curricula.

"We have designed the project to be very flexible, providing teachers a variety of ways to approach the lessons depending on the amount of time available and the students' level," said Charischak. "Our web site outlines one possible scenario that would give teachers some ideas about how to proceed. Our intent was to create a very detailed, rich project that is flexible, but at the same time captures the spirit of Eratosthenes' discoveries. As project leader, I will be contributing regularly to our discussion board, is a very popular feature of this global telecollaborative project."

Registration began in the first week of March and the project is now in the "set the stage" phase, in which participants write a letter of introduction and submit it to the discussion area by March 15th. The project concludes with "Reflections & Final Reports," which are due by April 4th. At the end, students and teachers will have experienced a truly global collaboration. Currently there are 84 classes registered from the US, Puerto Rico, Australia, New Zealand and Israel. In New Jersey, fourteen schools have signed up. "This number will grow significantly as we enter the measurement phase of the project which began yesterday and lasts through the end of the month," said Charischak.

To access the "Noon Day Project" website, please visit <http://www.k12science.org/noonday>

Established in 1870, Stevens offers baccalaureate, master's and doctoral degrees in engineering, science, computer science, management and technology management, as well as a baccalaureate in the humanities and liberal arts, and in business and technology. The university, located directly across the Hudson River from Manhattan, has a total enrollment of about 1,740 undergraduates and 2,600 graduate students. Additional information may be obtained from its web page at

www.stevens.edu.

For the latest news about Stevens, visit www.StevensNewsService.com.

****STEVENS****

[News Flash](#) | [Press Releases](#) | [StevensViews](#) | [Technogenesis.TV](#) |
[Logos & Graphics](#) | [Community & Waterfront](#) | [Archives](#) | [Contact Information](#) | [Stevens News Service Home](#) | [Stevens-Tech Home](#)

Stevens News Service is the official news service of Stevens Institute of Technology and is published by the Stevens News Service, Office of Development & External Affairs.

News related questions can be directed to 201-216-5687.

All content, images, and related items herein are the sole property of Stevens Institute of Technology. Unauthorized use or linking to this site is strictly prohibited.
Stevens Institute of Technology 2002-2004. All rights reserved.

Site best viewed at 800 x 600 pixels with Microsoft Internet Explorer
Please send comments and suggestions to the *StevensViews* editor at pberzins@stevens.edu.

This page was last modified March 17, 2004