Information Technology Services Newsletter

Go Wireless!

Over the summer, SUNY Brockport upgraded campus wireless access by installing wireless routers or “hot spots” in academic buildings. To access the wireless network you need a wireless network card or adapter that is 802.11b/g compatible.

The campus wireless network is currently accessible in Brockway, Cooper, Dailey, Drake, Edwards, FOB, Hartwell, Harrison, Holmes, Seymour, and Smith.

Look for the wireless access symbol located all around the SUNY Brockport campus for wireless hot spots, with more access points coming soon!

Instructions for using laptops, Palm Pilots, and other similar technologies on the wireless network are available at: http://www.brockport.edu/its/wireless.pdf

New Email System

On August 1st, 2004, SUNY Brockport upgraded the campus email to the SUN Microsystems Java Enterprise Email System. This high-performance email system includes security features such as user authentication, session encryption, and content filtering to help prevent the spread of spam and viruses. Along with the new email program comes the SUN Java System Calendar Server, an invaluable tool that allows users to easily manage, collaborate, and coordinate appointments, helping to save time, energy, and resources. Also new this fall is the SUN Java Instant Messaging System. Similar to AOL’s version, the SUN instant messaging system allows for communication and collaboration, with instant messaging capabilities such as person-to-person chat, multi-person conferences, news alerts, polls, and file transfers that help to create an enriched collaborative learning environment. Web accessibility to email will be retained. With the exception of Lotus users, faculty and staff will generally be able to maintain their existing mail interface.
Windows XP and MS Office 2003 Pro Have Landed!

Information Technology Services has upgraded all supported PC labs to run the Microsoft Windows XP Operating System and the Microsoft Office 2003 Professional Suite. The new changes provide major benefits to users, including improved performance, functionality, new features, and the ability to connect people and information through built-in synchronization tools.

Tower Fine Arts Even Finer

Over the summer, Mac computers were upgraded in the Foreign Languages Lab on the first floor of Tower Fine Arts Building (Room 110) to iMac G4 computers with MS Office 2004 for Mac, Adobe Creative Suite, Macromedia MX 2004, and language specific software.

Dreamweaver Upgraded

Information Technology Services has upgraded all supported PC labs to run the Macromedia Studio MX 2004 with Flash Professional Edition. The package includes Dreamweaver, Flash, Fireworks, and Freehand. Macromedia Studio MX 2004 contains the latest versions of cutting-edge software for virtually every aspect of website design and application development.

Adobe Creative Suite Arrives

Creative Suite software including Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, Golive, InDesign 2.0 and Acrobat has been installed in the Arts and Performance Mac Media lab in Holmes Hall. Creative Suite is a full-featured editing software program that is primarily used by CMC faculty and students. It is replacing Quark software this year.
Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Service

Jim Zollweg

SUNY College at Brockport has a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Service. One of its purposes is to support faculty research. If your work involves (or could benefit from) spatial data analysis, you are invited to consult with the program operators. Incorporating spatial analysis with GIS into grant proposals can significantly enhance their competitiveness; in fact, more and more calls for proposals in many fields mention GIS.

Many fields of study are compatible with GIS - So far, we’ve worked with faculty in: Anthropology, Criminal Justice, Earth Sciences, Environmental Sciences and Biology, Mathematics, Psychology, and Sociology. This is a widely applicable technology!

Introduction to GIS Workshop

Carol Goodman Zollweg from Bergmann Associates in Rochester and James Zollweg, Earth Sciences, will present a two-hour hands-on workshop on Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The session will combine real-world practical examples of GIS in engineering, environmental studies and other areas with a demonstration of computing assisted mapping. Participants will use ESRI’s ArcMap software that is available in most public PC labs on campus. The Zollwegs state that “Brockport’s access to GIS tools is excellent and among the best anywhere.”

Introduction to GIS Workshop: Thursday, October 28, 2004 from 1:15 - 3:15 PM in 202 Dailey Hall.

Register now by calling x2368 or by emailing tloscomb@brockport.edu
For more information, please contact Jim Zollweg at x2352 or x2636.

ITS A-Team is Back in Business!

Over 20 ITS A-Team members are returning for another year of action. ITS A-Team members fill many important positions at Dailey Hall, Drake Library, and throughout the SUNY Brockport campus. Whether it be a Dailey Hall supervisor, HelpDesk technician, ResNet staff member, web page developer, or Drake Library reference desk assistant, the ITS A-Team can help faculty, staff, and students with most all computer-related issues that may arise.


The 2004-2005 ITS A-Team
ITS Welcomes New Staff Member

Information Technology Services recently hired Shaun Jeffers as a Desktop Support Specialist. Jeffers graduated from SUNY Geneseo in 2004 with a B.A. in Computer Science and a minor in Mathematics. Shaun is a “Mac aficionado” and enjoys playing roller hockey. Originally from Rochester, NY, Shaun is responsible for assisting with faculty/staff computer issues as well as assigning tickets for ITS A-Team staff to fix faculty/staff and other department computers as well. Shaun has been quickly thrust into the mix of fighting viruses and fixing faculty and staff computers. Shaun is a welcome addition to the staff and enthusiastically helps ITS achieve it’s mission.

Online Learning Update

The following facts about online learning environments were recently reported as part of Campus Mission Review:

ANGEL Update:
(As of September 2004):
1.) Approximately 200 faculty/staff access ANGEL in an average weekly 24-hour period;
2.) 3,200 students use ANGEL;
3.) About 500 courses actively use ANGEL;
4.) A growing number of committee and ad hoc groups also have used ANGEL as a collaborative and communication.

SLN Update:
Now in its fourth year at SUNY Brockport, key indicators of SUNY Learning Network success include:
1.) Average class size of 17;
2.) Average retention rate of 96%;
3.) Over 1300 registrations since fall 2000;
4.) Implementation of an online Instructional Assessment System (IAS) system;
5.) A gateway to the college for 144 first-time students;
6.) Part of rich faculty collaborative effort of 56 SUNY campuses with many opportunities for professional development;
7.) Subject offerings in 15 disciplines, across all schools, at the graduate and undergraduate level.

Online learning has a healthy foothold in the higher education landscape and will continue to have considerable growth and inclusion in various departmental curricula and course offerings at Brockport. The Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching and ITS are both ready to help faculty get started or improve their use of online systems.

New ITS Website

ITS webpages have a new look this fall. The pages have been reorganized for a more consistent look and feel. Thank you to Steve Lewis, and students including Brian LePore for the much needed updates. Feedback and suggestion for additional improvements are encouraged. The ITS webpage can be accessed at: http://www.brockport.edu/its

Web Mining Professor

Anthony Scime, assistant professor of Computer Science at SUNY College at Brockport, has had his book Web Mining: Applications and Techniques, released by Idea Group Publishing. This is an edited volume with 19 chapters from an array of international authors.

NetOp Update

Software that allows instructors to view student desktops is being installed this fall in the Hartwell Business lab, Drake Library’s Kiefer Room, and Dailey Hall rooms 203 and 213. NetOp provides a way to share a student’s screen with the rest of the class on a large screen projector. It also gives an instructor a way to turn on and off students workstations easily. For more information, see: http://www.netop.com

Antivirus CD for Home Use

Antivirus CDs for PC and Mac home use are now available from the supervisor’s desk on the second floor of Dailey Hall. The CD must be renewed annually. McAfee for PCs and Virex for Macs are available. Users are highly encouraged to be sure virus software on all desktops and laptops is installed and updated regularly.
Printing in Labs

Printing from ANGEL, Electronic Reserves, PowerPoint, and other software applications can be resource intensive when multiplied by every student in a class. Faculty are asked to help conserve paper and toner in the Library and computer labs by following these suggestions:

1.) Use black letters on a white or light background for PowerPoint slides. Black or a dark backgrounds use much more toner than standard printing.
2.) Provide students instructions on how to print 3 or 6 PowerPoint slides per page.
3.) Use a standard 12 point font or smaller for printing (larger when presenting).
4.) Reinforce to students the advantages of double sided printing.
5.) If everyone must have a copy, print one copy and take it to the print shop for reproduction.
6.) Break large jobs up into smaller sections and print during off hours (mornings or after 5 PM).

Note: Dailey Hall does not permit jobs over 50 pages without prior arrangement.

Do you have other ideas, suggestions, or tips for conserving paper and toner? We would love to hear your input.
Please send your suggestions to morzech@brockport.edu

ResNet Connections Update

The start of the fall semester was once again a very busy time for ITSS, including professional staff, ITS A-Team members, and most especially, ResNet! ResNet is responsible for all student Internet connection issues including distribution of ethernet cables, anti-virus/patch CDs, and assessing and servicing student network problems, and requests. Listed below is a day-to-day synopsis of student PC connections to the SUNY Brockport network that were administered by ResNet during the first week of school.

![ResNet Connections - Fall 2004](chart.jpg)
Drake Library News

Scavenger Hunts, Assignments, and Library Resources

Many faculty like to create scavenger hunts and other assignments to help students learn about the information resources needed for their work. It’s a great idea in concept, and frequently in practice, but I would like to suggest a few things to keep in mind, based on my vantage point of seeing the students work through these assignments in the library.

First of all, it cannot be stressed strongly enough how rapid and ongoing the changes are in the information resources available for library patrons. The index that you use today, and even the location of items in the building are changing and shifting as libraries evolve in response to unprecedented changes and opportunities. If you use an assignment that intends to introduce the library to your students, please check through it before each semester. Last year for example, we moved PsychInfo from FirstSearch to Ebsco, and acquired PsychArticles, a full text set of 40+ journals from the APA. If a Psychology professor had an assignment created for Fall 2003 and ran it again in Fall 2004, it would have been extremely important to have noted these changes so that students could successfully complete the assignment.

Another observation is that it is important to recognize the dimensions of the shift in how we receive scholarly information. We get far fewer journals in print than we did once; and far more online than we ever had here in the building. These online resources are not just runs of a few years either; Academic Search Premier for example has 20, 30 or more years worth of many titles full text online. Thus the periodicals stacks as a defining location to find scholarly articles is not the case any longer.

I would also observe that in my experience a long check list of the “find this, then find that” sort, while not without its value, often translates into one student after another at the reference desk, asking us to find this first, then that for them. I would suggest that the process is more important than location and particular items, since these are increasingly going to be changing anyway. The students need to learn to navigate the library web page, and to know what our major online resources are (a good guide to these is the tutorial done last year at: http://www.brockport.edu/~library5/guide

Please feel free to email or send me a copy of your scavenger hunt or library assignment and we’ll check it for you if you’d like to update it, and alert you to new resources you might not have had opportunity to learn about yet.

Finally, keep in mind our instruction program where you can bring your class to the library and one of us will spend an hour going over the library resources appropriate to their work. (Contact Charlie Cowling or use the form at http://www.brockport.edu/~library5/bi.htm). We realize that our faculty are very competent researchers, but there is often a huge gap between faculty researchers and the undergraduate who has so much yet to learn. The librarians here have many years of experience in working with your students, why not let us use that experience to help them better their work?

Music at Noon in Drake

The strains of a classical trio or the syncopation of a jazz ensemble await you in Drake Library as this acclaimed series of 40 minute noontime concerts takes place Wednesdays at 12:10 PM. Mark your calendars, “Music at Noon” concerts will be held this year on October 6th, November 3rd, March 2nd and April 6th.
Summer Reading Project Resource
Debra Ames, Head of Collection Management in Drake Memorial Library, recently compiled a rich online bibliography of additional resources related to this year’s summer reading project. The work is available from the Drake library site: http://drake.brockport.edu. Using Dreamweaver for the first time, Ames says the project began as a short two to three page guide, but took on a life of its own. Organized as a table that includes subject headings grouped according to format (books, reports, articles, videos, websites) helps to make the site easy to navigate. Online excerpts, photos and links make it especially effective. This is a gift to Brockport, take a look, you’ll want to bookmark this site!

Excerpt from website:

“NICKEL AND DIMED BIBLIOGRAPHY
Additional resources relating to NICKEL AND DIMED: ON (NOT) GETTING BY IN AMERICA
By Barbara Ehrenreich, Compiled by Debra Ames

I have compiled a fairly extensive sampling of recent, and a few classic, resources (books, reports, articles, videos, websites) on issues raised by Barbara Ehrenreich in Nickel and Dimed: On (not) Getting by in America. Items have been included from all ranges of the political spectrum, but any bias noticed in this compilation is the compilation author’s, not that of the Library or the College.

Where possible, links are provided to either the full text, or to an abstract, summary, description, table of contents, or and/or excerpt. A call number is provided for those titles that the Library owns. Most of the remaining titles are being ordered, and I will add call numbers as they are received. For even more resources, search the Library’s catalog and databases (Academic Search Premier and InfoTrac are two good starting points) using the words from this bibliography’s section headings as keywords, plus others such as: welfare reform, income distribution, poor women, poor families, working class, middle class, working women, low income, income inequity.”

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Above: Webpage design for the online bibliography.
MS Office/Dreamweaver Training

September 21st – September 30th, 2004

This summer, most campus computing labs have been upgraded to MS Office 2003 Professional and Dreamweaver MX 2004. Refresh your skills by attending ITSS sponsored software training workshops this fall. All sessions are held in Dailey Hall, 2nd floor, room 202. All sessions will be taught by Diane White. Register early for any of these half day sessions by calling x-2368 or by emailing tloscomb@brockport.edu.

Tuesday, September 21
Microsoft Excel I - (Creating Spreadsheets).......................................................................................... 9 am - 12 pm
Microsoft Access I - (Creating Databases)............................................................................................ 1 am - 4 pm

Thursday, September 23
Microsoft Excel II - (Creating Spreadsheets)......................................................................................... 9 am - 12 pm
Microsoft Access II - (Creating Databases).......................................................................................... 1 pm - 4 pm

Tuesday, September 28
Microsoft PowerPoint I - (Creating Presentations)................................................................................ 9 am - 12 pm
Dreamweaver MX 2004 I - (Creating Websites)................................................................................... 1 am - 4 pm

Thursday, September 30
Microsoft PowerPoint II - (Creating Presentations)............................................................................. 9 am - 12 pm
Dreamweaver MX 2004 II - (Creating Websites)................................................................................ 1 pm - 4 pm

Workshop Descriptions

Microsoft Excel I & II - Learn how to perform calculations, analyze information, and manage lists in spreadsheets or web pages.

Microsoft Access I & II - Learn how to create databases to track and manage information.

Microsoft PowerPoint I & II - Learn how to create and edit presentations for slideshows, meetings, and web pages.

Dreamweaver MX 2004 I & II - Learn how to create and publish web pages.
The SUNY TLT Cooperative in partnership with the SUNY Training Center is offering eight-week, non-credit online professional development courses. SUNY Teaching, Learning and Technology Cooperative online course registration is now open for the Fall 2004 semester. These sessions are intended for SUNY faculty and staff and range from $95 to $135. Courses run from October 12th through December 4th and are taught completely online. For course descriptions and to register online, please visit: http://www.tc.suny.edu

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<td>L. Pirinelli</td>
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<td>The Theory &amp; Structure of Blended Learning</td>
<td>E. M. Howd</td>
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<td>Creating Online Learning Activities and Assessment for Adult Learners</td>
<td>F. Chacon</td>
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<td>Basic Web Page Design: Using HTML (Hyper-Text Markup Language)</td>
<td>B. Yavits</td>
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<td>Designing a Course in BlackBoard</td>
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<td>Designing a Course in WebCT</td>
<td>E. M. Howd</td>
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<td>Online Pedagogy: Creating a successful web-enhanced course</td>
<td>B. Pelz</td>
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<td>Teaching Foreign Languages via Telecommunications</td>
<td>C. Meskill and N. Anthony</td>
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Upcoming Technology Related Events


Au Revoir, Floppies!
Brandon St. John

The news is out, but have you heard? Floppy disk use, purchases, and production are down, with most industry professionals agreeing that the floppy disk is nearing retirement! So often technology moves forward by leaps and bounds, and it seems it has finally hurdled the floppy disk.

One of the hot new replacements for the floppy is the flash drive. It has many other names including Thumb Drive, Jump Drive, and Keychain Storage Device, but no matter what you call it, this device packs serious storage capability in contrast to the floppy. As a comparison, a 3.5” floppy disk holds 1.44MB of data, whereas a low end Flash Drive holds 64MB of data, roughly the equivalent of 45 floppy disks. The Flash Drive is small, lightweight, compact, USB compatible, sturdier, and more reliable than a floppy disk could ever dream to be.

So obsolete are floppy disks that computer manufacturers are no longer including 3.5” floppy drives in their standard PC configurations. This trend is likely to continue as flash drives, CDs, and DVDs become more and more popular. Dell Computer Corporation has not included floppy disk drives in their standard computer configuration since the spring of 2003, and almost all new laptop computers are null and void of floppy drives as well. Yes, to answer all of you floppy drives addicts’ question, you can still add a floppy drive to your computer purchase for a marginal cost of about $20 extra.

What does this mean to Brockport users?
ITS has no immediate intention of removing 3.5” floppy disk drives from our computers, however, it is highly likely that new PCs will not include floppy drives. Therefore, now would be a good time to start converting those files stored on 3.5” floppies to flash drives or CDs!

Frequently Asked Questions

Q.) My textbook comes with a DVD. Are there any student labs on campus where they can be played?
A.) Yes, the Special Materials Center on the ground floor of Drake Library has five DVD players. In addition, over twenty Macintosh PCs with DVD drives are located in Tower Fine Arts, Room 110. Many Technology Enhanced Classrooms have DVD players for instructor use with more planned for the future. Contact Media Services at x2660 if you need to use a DVD player in your classroom.

Q.) Are any statistics available showing campus network usage?
A.) Yes, see the SUNY Brockport netstats page at: http://netstats.brockport.edu. The page depicts Spam blocker statistics and network stats by building.

Q.) Are PC discounts available for faculty/staff/student personal purchases?
A.) Yes, discounted prices are available for Dell, Gateway, and Apple computers. In addition, educational pricing is available for popular software programs through UB Micro. Contact information is listed below.

UB Micro
520 Lee Entrance Road
The Commons, Suite 109
Amherst, NY 14228-2567
http://www.ubmicro.buffalo.edu
ubmicro@buffalo.edu
(716) 645-3554
SciFinder Scholar Program

Dr. Maggie Logan in Chemistry sent the following message to colleagues that is reprinted here with permission.

Folks - I am sending this email to alert you to the availability at SUNY Brockport of SciFinder Scholar, which provides for searching the chemical literature (and allied fields!) electronically using a user-friendly program. Now, I know that you may be thinking that you are not in the chemistry department, and wondering why I am sending this to you. In fact, the Chemical Abstracts Services abstracts many journals that you would identify with your own field - be it biology, earth science, environmental science, or physics. In addition to the 1,829 journals from which all articles are abstracted (e.g., Advances in Atomic, Molecular, and Optical Physics; Endocrinology; Water Environment Research; Biotechnology and Bioengineering; Neurochemical Research), there are many more journals from which individual articles are abstracted. All of these abstracts can be found in SciFinder Scholar! You can search by subject, author, or chemical substance - or a combination of them. Of course, you can save answer sets, including abstracts, get lists of cited references, get lists of references that cite a particular paper, and directly import saved answer sets into EndNote and similar Bibliographic programs. In addition, you can access the Table of Contents for the 1,829 abstracted journals, helping you to stay current in your field! (Now if only we had online access to the articles corresponding to all of the wonderful literature references that we’ll be finding!) The best news of all is that we have a one-year fixed-fee contract that allows unlimited searching and displays! We have teamed with 5 other predominantly undergraduate institutions, and together we share 3 “seats”, available 24/7 (except for Saturday night when they update the database).

How can you gain access and see what the SciFinder Scholar program may offer to you in your research and teaching? Just call x5151 to request installation on your computer. Or - if you just want to take a look, email (mlogan) or call me (x5594), and I’ll be happy to take you for a test drive, using a computer on which SciFinder Scholar is already installed. There is no question that SciFinder Scholar is a powerful search tool for those of us who are chemists. BUT - I encourage all of you to see what it can offer you in your area of interest, and see whether it can help you in your research and teaching.

The SciFinder Scholar software is currently installed on ten computers in the department of Chemistry, including three that can be accessed by Chemistry majors and faculty from other departments. Dr. Logan will demonstrate how to use this software on Thursday, September 30th from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm in Smith 105 for Chemistry students and interested faculty. Please feel free to stop by.

Users in the News

Michael Anderson, worked for ITS for three years as Dailey Hall Supervisor, doing Desktop Support, handling ResNet calls, and work at the HelpDesk. This fall Mike accepted a position as a PC Support Specialist at Harris & Beach LLP in Rochester, NY, and was soon promoted to a Jr. Network Administrator position.

James Brien, ITSN, is presenting a session on “Creating Web Programs for Custom Banner Applications” at the SUNY Computing Officers Association (COA) Wizard Conference on November 7-9, 2004. For more information, see: http://www.tc.suny.edu/wizard_f04/wizardf04.html

Beth Christiansen Gregory, (BA - Brockport, 2002) Beth worked in ITSS as a student supervisor in Dailey Hall while attending classes. She has recently returned to Brockport for a one-year appointment in the Chemistry Department where she will be working on a Chemistry Stockroom database application, among other duties.

Dan Esler, former ITS graduate assistant (2000-2001), is spending this year teaching in China.

Information Technology Support Services is publishing these examples to demonstrate the value of working in Information Technology and encourages students to apply for employment next year at: http://www.brockport.edu/its/itss/forms/application.html
Information Technology Services

Frank Wojcik, Dean of Information Resources, CIO, and Director of Library
Information Technology Services includes Drake Library, ITSN, ITSS, and Media Services areas.

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Reining, Cheryl, Media Services
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E-Mail: creining@brockport.edu

Dailey Hall Hours of Operation*
Monday - Thursday 8:00 am - 1:00 am
Friday 8:00 am - 9:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 am - 9:00 pm
Sunday 1:00 pm - 1:00 am

* Hours of operation are subject to change between semesters.

Telephone Numbers
HelpDesk 395-5151
Dailey Hall 2nd floor desk 395-2247
Fax 395-2399
Status Phone 395-2390

Computer Labs in Dailey
202 PC Teaching Classroom
203 PC Teaching Classroom
205 PC Teaching Classroom
212 Sun Lab
213 Computer Skills Testing
*210 Software Hardware Evaluation Lab
*by appointment only: 395-2463

On-Line Forms @ ITSS Web Site
• Resource Request Form
  http://www.brockport.edu/its/forms/resource.html
• Faculty/Staff Account Form
  http://www.brockport.edu/its/forms/account.html
• Student Employment Application Form
  http://www.brockport.edu/its/forms/application.html
• Workshop Registration Form
  http://www.brockport.edu/its/its/workshop
• Workshop Evaluation Form
  http://www.brockport.edu/its/its/workshop/eval.html

Information Technology Services newsletter is published three times a year by ITS, State University of New York, College at Brockport. Contributions and suggestions in any form (voice, fax, mail, or e-mail) are welcome and should be addressed to Information Technology Support Services, Dailey Hall.