1-2000

Academic Computing Newsletter: Spring 2000

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Welcome to Max Ivey

Dr. William "Max" Ivey, Associate VP for Information Technology Services, officially begins his career at SUNY Brockport in January. We welcome him back to the States from Hong Kong and look forward to his leadership in helping Brockport continue to grow and enhance the appropriate use of technology. His office is located on the second floor of Allen, phone ext. 2385, and e-mail address is mivey@brockport.edu.

Y2K Congratulations

The campus appears to have survived Y2K with few surprises. This was due in large part to preparation, planning, and foresight throughout the campus. Systems were upgraded in preparation for the event that will help the campus for years to come. Y2K also helped faculty, staff, and students recognize how much there is to do in keeping the campus infrastructure viable. The need for adequate back up procedures and regular installation of virus scan updates are part of our individual and collective responsibility for campus resources.

New faces

Edwina Billings - Edwina Billings is the new Computer Skills Coordinator helping to implement the student computing skills initiative. Edwina has been instrumental in planning a new course, GEP150, for fall 2000 and initiating a campus license for three Ziff-Davis CDs (see page 5.) Her office is located in 210 Dailey. Her e-mail is ebilling@brockport.edu, phone ext. 2666.

Tammy Loscombe - Another new face in Dailey is Tammy Loscombe, ACS secretary. Tammy comes to Brockport with 12 years of experience at DePaul in Rochester and Jones Chemicals in LeRoy. Her office is located in 216 Dailey. She can be reached at tloscomb@brockport.edu, phone ext. 2368.

Resource Requests

If you haven’t already done so, there is still time to submit the on-line form to reserve a Dailey computer classroom, request the creation of a listserv, or to have course specific software installed for the Spring semester. The URL is www.acs.brockport.edu/request.html.

Loanable Laptops

Eight new Gateway Pentium II laptops are available from Media Services, A23 Edwards. They can be borrowed for either short or long term, depending on availability. For more information, contact Media Services at ext. 2660.
Software Volume licenses

ACS has annual renewable site-licenses for Minitab, SPSS, and Borland products, for campus use. For more information, contact Jeanne at ext. 2452 or send e-mail to jsaracen@brockport.edu.

Hardware/Software/Training Survey Results

A campuswide software/hardware/training standardization survey was compiled and presented to the College Technology Council in October. 1200 surveys were distributed and 207 responses received (17% response rate). The majority of campus users use Windows 95, Netscape and MS Word or WordPerfect. The need for continued training on software applications especially at intermediate and advanced levels of Excel (spreadsheets) and Access (databases) was frequently noted.

New UPS in Dailey

A new uninterruptable power supply (UPS) is being installed in Dailey. The new APC unit is designed to allow academic servers to handle electrical spikes, surges, and short outages during unexpected power outages due to adverse weather, disaster or other unusual occurrence. The APC unit is smaller in size than the previous unit and will be housed in the Dailey server room.
Library Notes

Recent library technology enhancements include:

- Dynix upgraded- Dynix software was upgraded in October 1999 with no problems.

- ERES being moved to new server- The overwhelming success of electronic reserves has necessitated moving the current Linux implementation to an NT server housed in Dailey.

  Under the direction of Eileen O’Hara in Circulation, electronic reserves keep growing and expanding in use and capability. Many thanks to the campus community for their enthusiastic acceptance and utilization of this service.

- WEBPAC- The library’s text-only terminals will be replaced this spring with Web-based PCs for access to WebPac, the web version of the library’s on-line catalog. This change will be welcome by many users who will be able to much more easily move between on-line journal searches and the card catalog for reference and other scholarly work.

- Work on database authentication continues - The goal of this project is to allow off-campus access to library databases for faculty and students at off-site locations. It is hoped that this service will be available during spring semester.

Campus Network Bandwidth Utilization

The above chart summarizes network traffic to and from the campus for Fall 1999. Usage over 80% of capacity indicates the growing demand for network capability for instructional as well as campus business applications. Plans to increase campus network capability are being developed for review by the CTC and others.

Chart A.

Chart B.

Chart B. indicates average network traffic in five minute intervals. Thanks to R. Smith, Tech Services, for charts.
On Dec 10th 1999, Eric Fredericksen, SUNY Asst. Provost for ALIS (Advanced Learning Information Systems) visited Brockport to discuss the SUNY Learning Network. This method of on-line course delivery is currently being used by over 5,600 students enrolled in 1,000 courses at 42 SUNY campuses. Originally funded by a Sloan Foundation grant, this initiative has grown 237% in the past year. The asynchronous system is administered by multiple servers located in Albany and Buffalo. The system uses a customized version of Lotus Notes for course templates and a commons areas for the library, bookstore, etc. to help campuses who want to try on-line course delivery.

Fredericksen explained that SLN courses, policies and regulations are determined by the originating campus. Although putting a course on-line requires a large amount of faculty time and commitment, there is also a huge demand for education, business and other courses to be delivered this way. While no firm decision has been made regarding this project, we’d like to hear from faculty who want to be considered for a pilot project to put a limited number of courses on SLN for Fall 2000. If interested, please send e-mail to morzech@brockport.edu. For more information about SLN see:

http://sln.suny.edu

SPSS Data Entry Web Server Demo

A small but enthusiastic group participated in a demo of SPSS data Entry Web Server software in December. SPSS is a widely used statistical package available on campus for PCs, Macs and Suns. A new module is being considered that allows Web surveys to be designed and code generated for entry into SPSS. The software includes error-checking, branching and skip and fill patterns. Possible uses include alumni surveys, institutional research, business and social science studies. One of the advantages of standardizing on a campus package for doing web surveys is the wide range of ad hoc and statistical reports that can be done using SPSS. Since this would be a package for campuswide use, we are interested in hearing from areas that might make use of it. If you would like to know more, please send e-mail to morzech@brockport.edu.
ParScore Update

ParScore is software for the Scantron test scoring system. The software is used to read 5 and 10 item multiple choice test scores used in a number of classes. Housed in Administrative Computing in Tuttle North, the service now has a new look to generated reports. Faculty attended classes on use and interpretation of the new reports in September. A customer satisfaction survey done in November revealed a majority of satisfied customers along with several suggestions for improvement. During a meeting with Scantron representatives in November, Brockport agreed to become a beta site for the next version of the software so that the suggestions for improvement can be considered for the next release that is due during the first quarter of 2000.

Ziff Davis Update

Academic Affairs has purchased a site license for the content of three Ziff Davis courses: Intro to Windows 95, Word97 and Netscape. This material will be primarily used by the Computer Skills program, but the courses are also available for faculty and staff use as well. If you are interested in previewing this material, please contact Edwina Billings, ebilling@brockport.edu.

Computer Skills Update

A new brochure is available that explains the details of preparing, scheduling and taking the computer skills test that will be required of all entering students beginning with the freshman class of 2000. The requirements, objectives and criteria for the exam are provided along with a web-site for a practice exam and other information regarding the test. A milestone was reached on Dec 21st, 1999 when the 100th user took the exam in the new testing facility in 213 Dailey. Faculty advisors as well as others are invited to investigate the site at:

http://computerskills.brockport.edu

In the News

January 13 & 14, Dr. O. Yasar (Computational Sciences) participated in a workshop at University of Buffalo related to high performance computing issues. Dr. Yasar is also collaborating with UB and SUNY Geneseo to seek grant funding for regional high performance computing center resources.

M. Beers (Education and Human Development) received a federal capacity building grant to improve and enhance technology in the classroom funded by the U.S. Dept of Education. In collaboration with Genesee Community College and the Medina School district, the grant enabled a teacher training session at SUNY Brockport on Dec 3rd. M. Beers and J. Saraceni (Academic Computing Services) presented a variety of learning software and Internet activities that can be used in the classroom. The grant is funding a Dell Web server that will be housed in Academic Computing Services to help K-12 teachers from Western New York keep up-to-date and in contact with others using educational technology.

K. Raja (Computer Science) and M. J. Orzech (Academic Computing Services) received matching funding for 10 Sun workstations through a Sun Strategic Investment Educational Grant (SIEG). The grant will fund 10 SUN workstations for computer science network and architecture classes to experiment with networking in a safe (i.e., non-production) environment. The new workstations will feature 19" flat display screens and SUN Ultra 5 workstations with 128 MB RAM.

WebSami Takes Off

September drew a full house in Dailey for instruction on WebSami, a web version of SUNY budget information. Judy Conway, Gary Levine and Jeff Post led the group through the new web-based SUNY budget system that is much easier to use and more current than the previous text-only system. If you missed this session, please call any of the above to learn more about this user friendly system.
WESTNET

WESTNET is an innovative partnership to establish a distance learning telecommunications network linking the following SUNY campuses in western New York: Brockport, Cortland, Fredonia, Geneseo, Buffalo College, Buffalo University, Alfred, and Monroe, Geneseo, Jamestown, and Finger Lakes Community Colleges. This electronic consortium enables each campus to give students greater flexibility and variety in their course selections, while providing faculty members the opportunity to reach students throughout the system. Thus, the rich educational resources of SUNY are made available to New York citizens, regardless of geographic location.

Spring 2000 courses on WESTNET

All WESTNET courses are sent and received in Edwards 107.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Times</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CPS 202</td>
<td>Advanced Computational Tools</td>
<td>MWF</td>
<td>10:45-11:45 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 302</td>
<td>Leisure the Individual &amp; Society</td>
<td>MWF</td>
<td>12:45-1:45 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JPN 112</td>
<td>Beginning Japanese II</td>
<td>MW</td>
<td>3:45-5:15 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLS 468</td>
<td>Health Policy</td>
<td>TR</td>
<td>10:00-11:15 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHL 390</td>
<td>Society/Political Philosophy</td>
<td>TR</td>
<td>12:30-1:50 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHL 491/591</td>
<td>Hume and Kant</td>
<td>TR</td>
<td>3:00-4:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPS 644</td>
<td>Supercomputer and Application</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>6:00-9:15 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SMARTROOM 108

SMARTROOM 108 is one of SUNY Brockport’s sophisticated electronic classrooms. Formerly known at the RAITN room, this state-of-the-art multimedia facility enables instructors to display class materials on large in-room monitors and brings the resources of the Internet and the World Wide Web into everyday classroom activities.

Spring 2000 courses in SmartRoom 108

All SMARTROOM 108 courses are in Edwards 108.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Times</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASL 112</td>
<td>Beg. American Sign Language II</td>
<td>TR</td>
<td>3:45-5:15 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASL 111</td>
<td>Beg. American Sign Language I</td>
<td>TR</td>
<td>6:00-7:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For further information, call Mr. Paul J. Tracy, Manager of Interactive Telecommunications, at (716)395-5931 and visit our website at http://cc.brockport.edu/~IDL1/. Classes subject to change without notice.
Workshops Scheduled in Dailey Hall

Software Training Sessions

Diane White will be presenting six days of training in January for faculty and staff in Dailey and the Metro Center. Please note the changes in dates as shown below. These sessions filled quickly but additional sessions have been scheduled for Access and Excel in February. To reserve seats call 2368. First preference will be given to those placed on waiting lists for February sessions.

Monday, January 10, 2000 (Dailey)
- Intermediate Excel 97 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
- Advanced Excel 97 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Tuesday, January 11, 2000 (Dailey)
- Beginner Access 97 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
- Intermediate Access 97 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Wednesday, January 12, 2000 (Dailey)
- Advanced Access 97 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
- MS Office 2000 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
- New Features

Friday, January 14, 2000 (Dailey)
- Creating WebPages I 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
- Creating WebPages II 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
- w/Office 2000

Thursday, January 19, 2000 (Dailey)
- Beg. PowerPoint 97 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
- Int. PowerPoint 97 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Tuesday, January 28, 2000 (Metro Center)
- Beginning Excel 97 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
- Intermediate Excel 97 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

PowerPoint Session at MetroCenter

MetroCenter is offering a PowerPoint workshop for faculty on Saturday, January 22, 9:00 am - 12:15 pm as part of the Metro Center’s Spring kick-off. Please call 232-7313 for more information.

Academic Computing Services is offering a series of computing seminars beginning January 26 for faculty, staff and students. The following sessions will be held in room 203, Dailey Hall unless otherwise indicated. Call 2368 to reserve a seat.

E-Mail for Students

Learn to use the campus e-mail system.
- Wed. Jan. 26 12 noon - 1 pm
- Thurs. Jan. 27 3 pm - 4 pm
- Fri. Jan. 28 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

SPSS
- Statistics software for PCs.
- Wed. Feb. 2 9:30 am- 10:30 am

Minitab
- Statistics package for PCs.
- Wed. Feb. 2 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Beginning Access
- Database application software for PCs.
- Fri. Feb. 4 1 pm - 4 pm
- Fri. Feb. 11 9 am - 12 noon

Intermediate Excel
- Spreadsheet software. Participants in this session must know basic Excel worksheets.
- Fri. Feb. 4 9 am - 12 noon

PowerPoint in the Classroom
- Presentation software for PCs.
- Wed. Feb. 9 9 am - 11 am

TopClass Content Creation
- Web-based course management software
- Fri. Feb. 18 9 am - 12 noon

Classroom Media 107 Edwards (Paul Tracy)
- Learn how to operate computer projectors, document cameras, and other classroom technology available in 107 Edwards.
- Wed. Feb. 3 12 noon - 1 pm
ACS General Information

Professional Staff

Orzech, Mary Jo, Director
Office: 217 Dailey Hall; Phone: 395-2368
E-Mail: morzech@brockport.edu
Planning, development, software training, troubleshooting and support.

Loscombe, Tammy, Secretary
Office: 216 Dailey Hall; Phone: 395-2368
E-Mail: tloscomb@brockport.edu
Office management; ordering hardware/software/supplies.

Anugu, Reddy, User Services Coordinator
Office: 207 Dailey Hall; Phone: 395-2463
E-Mail: ranugu@brockport.edu
Macintosh systems, TopClass, Multimedia, SHEL Lab, SPSS, ACS web page, and training.

Parsons, Anne, Computer Resources Manager
Office: 204 Dailey Hall; Phone: 395-5470
E-Mail: aparsons@brockport.edu
Classroom scheduling; hiring, training, scheduling Dailey student staffing.

Prine, Ron, Unix System Administrator
Office: 117 Dailey Hall; Phone: 395-2624
E-Mail: rprine@brockport.edu
E-Mail, listservs, UNIX admin, Mathematica, and E-Mail system security.

Saraceni, Jeanne, Software Support Specialist
Office: 208 Dailey Hall; Phone: 395-2452
E-Mail: jsaracen@brockport.edu
Software licensing, distribution and installation, software training and support.

Todd, William, Satellite Lab Coordinator
Office: B8E Cooper Hall; Phone: 395-5593
E-Mail: wtodd@brockport.edu
Hardware/software campus lab maintenance, training, satellite lab network and system admin.

Volkmar, Brian, Systems/Operations Manager
Office: 127 Dailey Hall; Phone: 395-2417
E-Mail: bvolkmar@brockport.edu
Hardware/software/network configuration (Novell) in Dailey; test scoring and IAS forms; RISC 6000 for Dynix; backup and PC system security.

Hours of Operation

Monday - Thursday     8:00 am -  1:00 am
Friday          8:00 am -  9:00 pm
Saturday        10:00 am -  9:00 pm
Sunday          1:00 pm -  1:00 am

Telephone Numbers

Dailey Hall Supervisor’s Desk  395-2247
ACS Status Phone             395-2390
Technology Hot Line          395-2121
Campus Information           395-2211
Dial-in                      395-2180
Fax                          395-2399

Computer Labs in Dailey

202 PC Teaching Classroom (32)
203 PC Teaching Classroom (32)
205 PC Teaching Classroom (40)
211 Software Hardware Evaluation Lab
212 Sun Lab
213 Computer Skills Testing Lab

On-Line Forms

The following forms are available on the ACS website.

• Resource Request Form
  http://www.acs.brockport.edu/request.html
• Faculty/Staff/Student Accounts Form
  http://www.acs.brockport.edu/accounts.html
• Student Employment Application Form
  http://www.acs.brockport.edu/employapp.html
• Workshop Evaluation Form
  http://www.acs.brockport.edu/evaluation.html
• Faculty/Staff Survey Form
  http://www.acs.brockport.edu/survey.html

NOTE
Academic Computing Newsletter is published three times a year by Academic Computing Services, 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 User Services Coordinator, Academic Computing Services, Dailey Hall.