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Academic Computing Newsletter

SUNY Brockport

Volume 11, Number 2

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ETI Award Proposals Due

Educational Technology Initiative (ETI) proposals for innovative instructional and educational technology use are due on February 23, 1996. This program, now in its third year, has funded over \$60,000 in computing and related equipment to enhance the teaching and learning environment at Brockport. These funds are made possible through generous donations to the Brockport College Foundation. Your support is appreciated.

Copies of past ETI winning proposals are on Reserve in Drake Library. Announcement of winners will be made on April 26, 1996. For a copy of the Call for Proposals, contact Raj Madan, ext. 2140.

SUN Workstations

Additional SUN Sparc 4 workstations have been added to the SUN lab in Room 213 Dailey. This brings the total number of SUN stations available to students in Dailey to twelve. The new machines have 32 MB RAM and 1 GB Hard disk drives. Computer science, math, physics and other students are expected to be the primary users of the SUNs for computer programming, graphics and simulation work using UNIX.

New PCs

New Pentium PCs will begin replacing the 8088's in the open lab area in Dailey this spring. The new machines are 100 MHZ and have 540 MB hard drives. They will permit additional capability including access to Windows and Internet services not possible on the old PCs.

They are also a reminder that now is the time to copy any older software you might have from 5.25" diskettes to 3.5" high density disks. The new machines will not have 5.25" drives and they will be scarcer to find on campus as time goes by. 3.5" HD disks have the advantage of storing more than twice as much data as the older format and being more reliable.

Modem Update

Changes in location and consolidation of modems took place over semester break. All users should dial into 395-2180. The potential for SLIP and PPP continues to be investigated. It is anticipated that this service will be provided primarily first for on-campus users in buildings that are not connected to the campus network. For now it is suggested that if you are off-campus, you

will need to consider a commercial provider for SLIP and PPP connectivity.

Software

ACS is occasionally asked about software that the campus has site-licensed. Currently, we have Borland software site licensed for distribution to faculty and staff for on-campus use.

Over the years, we have also received multiple copy licenses for use in campus computing labs, e.g., SPSS. These licenses have varying terms, restrictions, renewals, etc. and do not permit unlimited distribution.

A list of software that is currently installed in Dailey labs for student use is available in the documentation racks.

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Calender of Events

March 27

Scholars Day 1996

SUNY Brockport's annual Scholars Day is Wednesday, March 27, 1996. Faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to attend. For details call C. Donaldson at ext. 5118.

March 11-25

Workshops on MS Office

Another series of workshops taught by Diane White from UB Micro on Windows and MS Office is scheduled for March. Watch your mailbox for additional details.

March 29

SUN Users Group

The SUN Users Group meeting will be held on Friday March 29, 1996 at 1:30 PM. The Users group is open to all faculty, staff, and students.

May 21-24

CIT 96: A Continuing forum for Instructional Technology

SUNY College at Oswego will be hosting CIT 96 for faculty and Instructional support professionals. A limited number of scholarships are available for presenters. This conference has been well attended by Brockport faculty in the past. Contact Paul Kramer at (516) 271-8311 or email to: kramerpr@snyfarva.bitnet.

ON-LINE ACS Newsletter

ACS newsletter readers can also reach an on-line version of this newsletter. The URL for the current newsletter is <http://drake.acs.brockport.edu/acs/newsletter.html>

LCD Panels and Projectors Update

Sixteen LCD panels with overhead projectors or combined projection units are currently available for classroom use in the following buildings:

- a. Edwards (including RAITN room) - contact AV/ Technical Services, ext. 2660 (4).
- b. Dailey - contact ACS, ext. 5470 (4).
- c. Cooper (3):
 - B8R - contact D. Pask, ext. 4369 (B&W).
 - C6 - contact M. Beers, ext. 5553.
 - PC on cart - contact R. Burrell, ext. 5473.
- d. Allen - contact Personnel, 4th floor, ext. 2126.
- e. Tuttle North - contact Cathy Houston-Wilson, ext. 5352.
- f. Student Affairs, contact M. Schrank/N. Vicary, ext. 2137.
- g. Health Sciences, contact J. Balog, ext. 5474.
- h. Criminal Justice, contact L. Bassi, ext. 5503.

A number of these are color units and will work with either PCs or MACs. It is hoped that as prices decrease, additional units can be purchased.

HTML Resources

Want to know more about home pages? Check out these resources:

1. HTML Assistant, a shareware program for IBM compatible PCs and HTML Editor for Macs are available to help in creating Web pages. You can obtain these programs at ACS. Contact Jeanne at 2452.

2. Doctor HTML, a syntax, spelling and error checker has been created to check your home page. It is available at <http://imageware.com/RxHTML.cgi>

3. Drake Library has recently received the following books on HTML and World Wide Web:

Ernst, W. (1995). *Using Netscape*. Indianapolis: Que.

Ford, A. (1995). *Spinning the Web: how to provide information on the Internet*. New York: International Thomson Publishing.

Graham, I.S. (1995). *The HTML sourcebook*. New York: Wiley.

Hoffman, P.E. (1995). *Netscape and the WWW for dummies*. Foster City, CA: IDG Books Worldwide.

LeJeune, U.A. (1995). *Netscape & the HTML explorer*. Scottsdale, AZ: Corolias Group Books.

Lemay, L. (1995). *Teach yourself more Web publishing with HTML in a week*. Indianapolis, IN: Sams Publishing.

Hardware /Software Guidelines

To provide more consistent responses to frequently asked questions, representatives of AV/Technical Services and Academic Computing Services have combined information to produce this BROCKPORTCAMPUS-WIDE COMPUTER USERS INFORMATION SHEET.

Note that these recommendations are prefaced by the words "current" and "suggested" for new purchases. This information may be useful as a guide for individual or school acquisitions. Specifications change quickly; these general guidelines are not meant to be "forever".

For individual purchases of Mac and PC hardware, peripherals, software and printers, please contact University of Buffalo Micro Computer sales at (716) 645-3554. Individuals may also wish to contact APPLE Direct at (800) 877-8433 ext.107 for MAC hardware, peripherals, software and printers.

What if I have something different?

Don't worry. The most important advice is, "Does the equipment you have help you get your work done?" If you are productive with what you have, it is reliable, and works for you, use it.

What are the current suggested minimum specifications for new IBM-compatible PCs?

CPU:	486 DX or Pentium (w/chip upgrade option)
Processing speed:	75 MHZ (minimum)
Memory:	8 MB (minimum)
Hard drive size:	800 MB (minimum)
Floppy Drive:	3.5" 1.44 mb floppy drive
Ports:	2 serial, 1 parallel
Monitor:	14" SVGA non-interlace color
Keyboard:	101-key keyboard
Open slots:	4-5 open ISA slots

Extras/Options:

- 12 -16 MB RAM
- 17" VGA non-interlace FTM color monitor
- 1.2 GB hard drive
- 1 MB video memory upgrade for SVGA
- Quad Speed CD-ROM drive

What are the current suggested minimum specifications for Macintosh equipment?

Model:	Performa
CPU:	PowerPC 603
Processing speed:	75 MHZ
Hard drive size:	800 Megabytes
Memory:	8 MB
Monitor:	14" RGB color
Keyboard:	Apple extended keyboard II

What is the current recommended minimum specification for laser printers?

600 dpi, 4 Megabytes of memory

What is the current recommended specification for modems?

9600 Baud, Hayes compatible modem (minimum)

What are the current recommended operating systems?

For IBM-compatibles: DOS 6.22
For Macintosh: System 7.5

What is the currently suggested version of Windows?

Windows for workgroups 3.11
Windows 95

What do you suggest for wordprocessing software?

WordPerfect 5.1 for DOS (Old PCs)
WordPerfect 6.0 for Windows (486s and Up)
MS Word 6.0 (486s and Up)

Regarding WordPerfect, the following is quoted from "WordPerfect Magazine" (Nov, 1993). "If 90 percent of your time is spent typing and formatting text, WordPerfect 5.1 will suit your needs for years to come. If you have older computer equipment (anything less than a 386-based PC and at least 4MB of RAM), you might just as well stick with 5.1. Neither WordPerfect 6.0 (DOS) or 6.0 (Windows) will run at any reasonable speed on old, slow machines." WordPerfect 6.0 takes up 16 MB of hard drive space and needs at least 4 MB RAM.

What is suggested for spreadsheet software?

For IBM-compatibles: Lotus 123, Excel
For Macintosh: Excel, MS Works

What is suggested for data base software?

For IBM-compatibles: dBase, Access
For Macintosh: MS Access

Workshops Schedule in Dailey Hall

(January 18 - January 25, 1996)

Sessions are open to all students, faculty and staff. Limited seating is available on a first-come basis. Valid *Prime, **Sun accounts are required for these sessions. Complete an application form in Dailey in advance.

ACS Sponsored Workshops

January 18th, Thursday

9:45am - 10:45am Essentials for Using the Prime* (205)
 11:00am - 2:30pm E-Mail, Gopher, WWW, Internet* (205)
 1:30pm - 2:30pm WordPerfect for New Users (DOS) (203)

January 19th, Friday

9:30am - 10:30am SPSS for Windows (203)
 10:45am - 11:45am Intro to Using a MAC (212)
 1:15pm - 2:15pm Intro to MS Word, Access, Excel (205)
 2:30pm - 3:30pm WordPerfect for New Users (DOS) (203)

January 22nd, Monday

9:30am - 10:30am MS Powerpoint (Windows) (202)
 10:45am - 11:45am Introduction to Unix on Sun** (213)
 12:00pm - 1:00pm Lotus 2.4 (spreadsheet) (DOS) (203)
 1:15pm - 2:15pm Introduction to Windows 3.11 (205)

January 23rd, Tuesday

9:45am - 10:45am Intro to MS Word, Access, Excel (205)
 11:30am - 12:30pm WordPerfect - Advanced (DOS) (203)
 6:00pm - 7:00pm Essentials for Using the Prime* (202)
 7:15pm - 8:45pm E-Mail, Gopher, WWW, Internet* (202)

January 24th, Wednesday

10:45am - 11:45am Minitab on PC (Windows) (203)
 2:30pm - 3:30pm SPSS for Windows (202)
 3:45pm - 4:45pm Introduction to MAC (212)
 6:00pm - 7:00pm WordPerfect for New Users (DOS) (203)

January 25th, Thursday

9:45am - 10:45am Lotus 2.4 (spreadsheet) (DOS) (203)
 1:30pm - 2:30pm Introduction to Unix on Sun** (213)

Administrative Computing Sponsored Workshops

Administrative Computing training sessions on Eagle, IBM E-Mail, and World Wide Web will also be offered for faculty and staff. Call ext. 2385 for

registration. These workshops will be offered once a month on Fridays.

Library Research Information Workshops

January 18th, Thursday

12:30pm - 1:30pm First Search (find articles and docs) (205)

January 19th, Friday

12:00pm - 1:00pm World Wide Web as a research tool (205)

January 22nd, Monday

2:30pm - 3:30pm GPO (Government documents) (205)

January 23rd, Tuesday

1:15pm - 2:15pm World Wide Web as a research tool (205)

January 24th, Wednesday

1:15pm - 2:15pm Census (accessing data) (202)

Windows 3.1 Tip

The following steps will let you open a file automatically when you start an application:

1. Click once on the application's icon
2. Click File ...Properties on the menu bar
3. Click in the Command Line field
4. Arrow over to the right until you reach the end of the application's name
5. Press the space bar and then type in the name of the file you want to open. Don't forget to put in the drive letter, followed by a colon, and the directory if the document is not in the same location as the application.
6. Click on OK

The next time you double-click on the application icon, application will start and the file will open automatically.

Statistics on the Web

Statistics mavens can access the World Wide Web for background information about statistical procedures, software packages, updates, etc. Below are a few sites that may be of interest:

University of Florida Department of Statistics.

This site provides academic links to a variety of statistical sources. There's a 95% chance you'll find what you need here. (updated 12/22/95).

<http://www.stat.ufl.edu/vlib/statistics.html>

Clay Helberg's Statistics

Clay Helberg's Statistics on the Web page. Lists professional organizations, educational resources, software sources, listing of statisticians.

<http://maddog.fammed.wisc.edu/~helberg/statistics.html>

Journal of Statistics Education.

Refereed journal on the postsecondary teaching of statistics. Provides access to text related datasets of all articles. Abstracts available. (updated 12/1/95).

<http://www2.ncsu.edu/ncsu/pams/stat/info/jse/homepage.html>

Companies like SPSS, Minitab and SAS have also created homepages. Try:

SPSS

Offers SPSS software descriptions, survey tips, job openings, links to other statistics sites.

<http://www.spss.com>

MINITAB

Contains new product announcements, features, macros, reviews, technical reports related to Minitab.

<http://www.minitab.com>

SAS

Lists SAS corporate background, products, job opportunities.

<http://www.sas.com>

Run Netsearch on 'statistics' for additional resources.

Grant Web/Gopher Sites

The following is a short list of URLs and gopher sites for grants, funding, and research opportunities. Each site also contains links to other sites.

National Institutes of Health Grants and Contracts

<http://www.nih.gov:80/grants/>

Region One Education Service Center Grant Information

<http://dewey.esc1.tenet.edu/html/grants.html>

Office of Grants and Sponsored Programs

<http://www.nemostate.edu/Departments/Academic/grants/home.html>

Grants and Funding Sources

<http://asa.ugl.lib.umich.edu/chdocs/nonprofits/funding.html>

Grants

<http://galaxy.einet.net/GJ/grants.html>

Cook College Grants Alert

<http://www.rutgers.edu/Services/Funding/cook/volume.1.shtml>

Cyberschool - Grants, Fellowships

<http://www.websys.com/cyberschool/grants.html>

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance

<gopher://solar.rtd.utk.edu/11/Federal/CFDA>

The U.S. Department of Education

<gopher://gopher.ed.gov/11/announce/competitions>

Federally Funded Research in the United States

<http://medoc.gdb.org/best/fed-fund.html>

Grantsnet

<gopher://gopher.os.dhhs.gov/11/Topics/grantsnet/>

ACS General Information

Professional Staff

Director: Mary Jo Orzech

Office: 217 Dailey, Phone: 395-2368

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Lab Coordinator: Anne Parsons

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PC Support Specialist: Jeanne Saraceni

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E-Mail: jeanne@acspr1.acs.brockport.edu

User Services Coordinator: S. Reddy Anugu

Office: 207 Dailey, Phone: 395-2463

E-Mail: reddy@acspr1.acs.brockport.edu

Systems Programmer: Erik Seielstad

Office: 117 Dailey, Phone: 395-2624

E-Mail: erik@acspr1.acs.brockport.edu

Systems/Network Manager: Brian Volkmar

Office: 127 Dailey, Phone: 395-2417

E-Mail: sysadm@acspr1.acs.brockport.edu

Teachnet

Teachnet is an on-line listserv (discussion group) for SUNY Brockport faculty and staff who are interested in a variety of issues related to technology and teaching. Currently, the listserv has 61 faculty subscribed. It is an excellent way to share brief news items quickly. You are invited to subscribe by sending mail to:

listserv@acs.brockport.edu with a one-line message:

sub teachnet yourfirstname yourlastname

Once you have subscribed, you can mail postings to:

teachnet@acs.brockport.edu

For a list of subscribers, send mail to listserv@acs.brockport.edu

that says:

review teachnet

Telephone Numbers

Dailey Hall 1st Floor Desk	395-2479
Dailey Hall 2nd Floor Desk	395-2247
Prime Status Phone	395-2390
Technology Hot Line	395-2121
Dial Access Lines	395-2180
Fax	395-2399

Hours of Operation

Monday - Thursday	8:00 am - 11:00 pm
Friday	8:00 am - 8:00 pm
Saturday	10:00 am - 8:00 pm
Sunday	1:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Computer Labs in Dailey

202	Pentium PC Teaching Lab
203	IBM PS/2 Teaching Lab (386s)
205	Pentium PC teaching Lab
211	Software Hardware Evaluation Lab (SHEL)
212	Macintosh Lab
213	Sun Lab

SUNY Brockport WEB Servers

Official Campus Web Server

<http://www.brockport.edu>

Academic Computing Services

<http://www.acs.brockport.edu>

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.