Welcome to our Spring Issue!

First of all, I congratulate the winners of the Innovation Grants for the use of technology in teaching and learning. They are: Mary Jane Kerm and Wayne Garner of Physics, Nancy T. Kinney of Political Science, Eric Love of Theatre, Tivoli Majors of English, Vicki Sauter of MIS, Laura Westhoff of History and Fred Willman of Music. Details can be found at: http://www.umsl.edu/technology/innovation_grant_2005/fall05_winners.html

The selection committee had a difficult task choosing the projects from a very strong field of proposals. Thank you to everyone who submitted proposals, and please watch for the announcements for the next round of Grants. The Innovation Grants were directly a result of concerns expressed in the Spring 2005 Provost's Forums about suitable incentives for faculty to use technology to enhance teaching and learning. There will be another Provost's Forum on Technology in Teaching and Learning in March. Please watch for that announcement as well.

We have a number of new developments this semester that have great potential to enhance teaching and learning. We've added new tools to MyGateway that make it easy for instructors to create blogs and wikis directly in their courses. Use of these tools has grown on the Internet and they have definite advantages to fostering collaboration and communication within a course. Embedding the tools within MyGateway allows better development within a pedagogical context.

Hard on the heels of Apple's release of their Video iPod, we have created our own podcasting server as a pilot. The Video iPod can display Powerpoint slides well enough that it's feasible to download classroom presentations for reviewing or for review. Just for fun, we put one of Chancellor Tom George's jazz performances on the site for your viewing pleasure at: http://podcast.umsl.edu/weblog/pod/George/

We're also piloting a tool for web-based courses called HorizonLive which also includes Wimba audio tools. The Modern Languages department in particular is very excited about using Wimba tools as the basis for new ways of learning languages. Teamed up with podcasting, Horizon and Wimba could change the way in which students review course material.

The Second Annual High Performance Computing Day was held on February 9, featuring Expo LX, Journal LX and Teams LX. For a complete list of the new features and additions to MyGateway include:

- advanced assessment features
- voice announcements and voiceboards
- discussion grader
- glossary
- performance dashboard
- document unpackagger
- voice announcements and voiceboards
- advanced assessment features

New Features in MyGateway

You may have noticed several changes when you logged into your MyGateway course site this semester. The MyGateway course management system was upgraded from version 6.0 to 6.3. and new features were added to provide instructors with more tools to enhance student learning.

For example, instructors can now use the Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching, (MERLOT) to search for educational materials and embed links to the material directly into a MyGateway course. The MERLOT tool is located in the content areas of a MyGateway course site. In addition, three Learning Objects have been added which include: Expo LX, Journal LX and Teams LX. These three learning extensions can be used to foster active learning, facilitate collaboration between students and expand channels for student-instructor interaction. Some other additions to MyGateway include:

- discussion grader
- glossary
- performance dashboard
- document unpackagger
- voice announcements and voiceboards
- advanced assessment features

For a complete list of the new features and a short description of how they work please visit: http://mygateway.umsl.edu and click on, “What’s New with MyGateway.”

The Faculty Resource Center also provides regularly scheduled MyGateway training sessions: Technology Friday Workshop Schedule: https://tomsawyer.umsl.edu/webapps/mygateway/training/login.cfm

You can also stop by the Faculty Resource Center, give us a call, or send us an email, 314-516-7104 or email: frc@umsl.edu

Jennifer Spearman-Simms
User Support Analyst-Principal
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Power Management Settings

ITS and Facilities Services have been investigating methods to reduce power consumption of computers on campus. It is estimated that the University could save approximately $30,000 per year by turning computers off or setting them to enter a low power mode when not in use.

To help achieve this goal, ITS will be configuring all new DSP systems with specific power options enabled by default. There are two main features that will be enabled on these systems. The first feature will turn off the monitor after 15 minutes of mouse and keyboard inactivity. After the monitor has been placed in the low power state, a simple press of any key on the keyboard or shake of the mouse will turn the monitor back on.

The second feature will place the computer in “hibernation” mode after 60 minutes of inactivity. Hibernation saves all the information stored in RAM (including all open applications and the state of your desktop) to the hard disk and then turns the computer off. To “wake” a system from hibernation the power button on the computer needs to be pressed. When the computer turns back on it will load all the information that was previously in RAM and your computer will be as if it were never turned off.

There are instances where these settings might conflict with the way a computer is being used and the settings may need to be adjusted or disabled. For instance hibernation can interfere with programs you have running that access network resources on a constant basis, such as streaming media or extended downloads, if you were to leave your computer unattended long enough for the system to enter hibernation. Another instance of a conflict would be extended burning of CD or DVD media, which will fail if the computer hibernates while the applications are trying to write to the optical media. Certain other applications may be impacted but most applications work well with hibernation. One final warning on conflicts, make sure not to remove devices from your computer while it is hibernating, such as USB drives, as this may lead to system instability.

These changes will be made to new computers, ITS and Facilities Services would like to encourage users of existing systems to set these settings manually. Making the necessary changes typically takes 5 to 10 minutes and detailed instructions will be provided. After making the changes it is best to save all documents that are open and test the settings by using “Start->Shutdown” and selecting “Hibernate” from the drop-down menu. If problems are encountered during the test, the changes can be undone. If you require assistance with making these changes, please contact the Helpdesk at: 516-6034.

Paula Smith
System Administrator-Principal
SmithPaul@umsl.edu
516-7021

What is Podcasting?

Did you know that some of your favorite radio shows, music, film previews or subscribed periodicals are now available as Podcasts? You may think this would be great if you had an iPod. Podcasts can be subscribed to on your desktop computer using iTunes or another compatible software player.

UMSL is piloting podcasting with an Apple Podcast server. Students and faculty have expressed interest in podcasting course lectures, possibly including graphics and video. Many colleges and universities are offering Podcasts as a mechanism for distributing lectures.

The term “Pod” in podcasting is an acronym for “portable on demand” or “play on demand.” It is a method of publishing audio and video content to the Internet using RSS (Real Simple Syndication). You subscribe to the feed which allows you to download new podcasts automatically while also delivering metadata about the content such as the title, summary, description, link to the file, size, file format, etc.

Podcasting also includes the process of downloading audio content from the RSS feed to the client’s desktop to the client’s desktop media device.

The first definition involves the publication of audio and video, while the second relates to the download process.

If you have any questions regarding the piloting of podcasting at UMSL, please contact Marcel Bechtoldt via email at: bechtoldt@umsl.edu. General questions concerning podcasting can be answered by the Faculty Resource Center at extension 6704.

Marcel Bechtoldt
System Administrator Principal
bechtoldt@umsl.edu
516-6173
Laptops Available for Student Checkout

Laptops PCs are now available for student checkout at the University Libraries. UMSL students may use the laptops in the libraries for up to four hours by submitting a student ID and signing the use agreement.

The laptops, provided by Instructional Computing, are configured with Microsoft Office, Internet Explorer, and Mozilla Firefox. After logging in with a GatewayID, students can save to their SAMBA drive or a personal USB flash drive. Recently expanded wireless Internet access throughout the libraries allows students to use the computers just about anywhere in the library.

Students interested in borrowing laptops may inquire at the Circulation Desks at the Thomas Jefferson or Ward E. Barnes Libraries.

Pat Tansey
Systems Support Analyst – Specialist
314-516-5140

canz@umsl.edu

Thomas Jefferson Library (North Campus)
516-5057

Ward E. Barnes Library (South Campus)
516-5572

Faculty Resource Center Announces Department Visits

Yes, you read it right. The Faculty Resource Center is always thinking of ways to help you be successful in using technology to enhance student learning. In addition to our weekly workshops and consultations we are pleased to announce a new service: Department Visits. Our goal is to enhance faculty and staff support by becoming more accessible to you. To schedule a department visit just give us a call and tell us what topics you would like to learn more about, and where and when you would like us to come. Then inform all interested faculty and support staff of the time and place.

For more information please give us a call at 516-6704 or send us an email, frc@umsl.edu.

Jennifer Spearman-Simms
jsimms@umsl.edu

Paul Wilmarth
wilmarth@umsl.edu
516-6704

Faculty Resource Center Staff

Instructional Computing Upgrades for Spring 2006

The new semester brings with it some upgrades for Instructional Computing. There have been a few new software packages that have been installed including Arena 10 and My World GIS. A complete list of all software removals and upgrades is located here: http://www.umsl.edu/technology/instructionalcomputing/docs/ICSoftwareSpring2006.pdf

In addition to the new software that is available, all the Windows XP instructor stations were upgraded to Dell GX 620’s. Many Instructional Computing labs have had updated hardware installed, including SSB 409, SSB 425, SSB 452, and MSC Cyber Café. The student workstations in SSB 102 have had new Dell GX 620’s installed. The computer labs on campus have had new scanners installed on the Windows systems. Three new Windows XP stick rooms were also built, in Clark Hall 413, Benton 243, and South Campus Classroom Bldg 209.

Instructional Computing and the Department of Math & Computer Science have partnered together and opened a new open computer lab on campus. This new lab is available in CCB 316. The lab is equipped with 8 Windows XP systems running the Instructional Computing image.

Instructional Computing will also be completing some upgrades over Spring Break 2006. Benton Hall 240 & Clark Hall 415 will be converted to a Windows XP stick room. Research 121, SSB 102 & SSB 335 will have projector upgrades, audio speakers installed and an SP Control system.

For more information about Instructional Computing visit us on the web: http://www.umsl.edu/technology/instructionalcomputing

Chris Scheetz
Supervisor, Instructional Computing
314-516-6742

NEW FACULTY TEACHING SCHOLARS BEING SOLICITED

Dr. Peggy Cohen announces that applications for the 2006-2007 New Faculty Teaching Scholars are due May 11. See the Center for Teaching and Learning web page for more info: http://www.umsl.edu/ctl

Mid-semester Feedback Consulting

Since spring 2004, increasing numbers of faculty members are seeking mid-semester feedback from their students with an online feedback system. The Center for Teaching and Learning offers individual consulting to clarify how best to use and discuss the data with students. Those who signed up for and received mid-semester feedback from their students this semester are welcome to contact CTL staff. Please email ctl@umsl.edu, or telephone, x4508, to request a confidential meeting. Dr. Peggy Cohen and Dr. Cheryl Bielema coordinate the system with ITS programmer Laura Hofer.

Dr. Cheryl Bielema, Center for Teaching & Learning
Instructional Designer
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314-516-7134

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For more information please give us a call at 516-6704 or send us an email, frc@umsl.edu.

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Chris Scheetz
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Dr. Cheryl Bielema, Center for Teaching & Learning
Instructional Designer
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314-516-7134
Teaching, Learning and Technology

The Center for Teaching and Learning has collaborated with Information Technology Services and other offices, colleges and campus supporters to bring people together in support of teaching, learning and technology initiatives. We encourage you to register for the following events at: http://www.umsl.edu/ctl and join in these campus discussions.

March 10, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
MSC Century Room A
Provost’s Forum on Technology and Learning Creating incentives and rewards for using technology figured prominently in the 2005 Forums that resulted in awarding ITS Innovation Grants. What's next? This forum offers an exchange of ideas about the emerging technology tools and supports we need to attract and retain students and sustain quality research and educational programs. Lunch will be provided at noon for those who pre-register. Co-sponsored with Information Technology Services, AT&T, and the Office of Academic Affairs.

March 17 (unit schedules to be arranged)
Planning, Implementing, Improving Assessment in Higher Education
Dr. Trudy Banta, Vice Chancellor for Planning, Implementing, Improving Assessment at IUPUI and a recognized expert on assessment, consults with small groups of colleagues interested in capstone, program, or institutional assessment. Co-sponsored by the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Education, Optometry, Fine Arts and Communication, and the Office of Institutional Research. Contact Peggy Cohen to reserve a space on the schedule.

April 12, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
MSC Century Room C

To sign up and to view a complete list of course offerings visit: http://www.umsl.edu/training or any computer lab on campus.

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Site Supervisor
Instructional Computing Labs
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Instructional Computing Short Courses Are Now Available!

The Instructional Computing Labs will again be teaching one-hour classes on several computing topics. These courses are already underway and will run through the end of the semester. They are designed to help users become familiar and comfortable with these topics, as they are needed for class work, homework, projects or teaching.

Most subjects are offered several times for the two weeks they are being offered and there are two “Marathon” sessions where classes are offered back to back to back. Each Friday thereafter will offer a different pair of these subjects as “Instructional Computing Fridays”, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. through the end of the semester. These classes are FREE to UMSL students, staff and faculty.


Excel & Outlook Skill Enhancement Workshops

These workshops are instructor-lead, hands-on and are available free to faculty and staff.

Excel: The Basics
If you have little or no experience using Excel, this workshop is for you.

Objectives:
1. Learn worksheet terms and layout.
2. Learn how to enter and format data.
3. Learn how to format columns and rows.
4. Understand how to perform calculations on data.
5. Learn printing tricks.
6. Become familiar with other worksheet tips.

Outlook: Making it Work for You
If you want to enhance your Outlook knowledge and skills, this workshop is for you.

Objectives:
1. Learn how to change and organize your Inbox and Calendar views.
2. Learn how to find e-mail addresses for University faculty, staff and students.
3. Understand how to control the use of the Reading Pane.
4. Use Outlook sorting and folder creation options to organize your mail.

Outlook: Advanced Topics
If you want to learn how to use Outlook features that help you organize your mail and calendar, then this is the course for you.

Objectives:
1. Become familiar with how to create personal distribution lists.

Workshop Schedule
Fall sessions are held in room 107 SCB!

Excel: The Basics
Monday, April 10th: 1-3 p.m.
Thursday, April 13th: 3-5 p.m.

Outlook: Making it Work for You
Monday, April 3rd: 1-2:30 p.m.

Outlook Advanced Topics
Monday, April 17th: 9-11 a.m.
Thursday, April 20th: 1:30-3:30 p.m.

To request coverage of a specific Excel or Outlook topic, send e-mail to brownma@umsl.edu. Register for any of the above sessions on-line at: http://www.umsl.edu/training.

Mary Brown
Technical Trainer-Principal
brownma@umsl.edu
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