

Faculty Technology News

A Newsletter sponsored by the Academic Technology Advisory Board (ATAB)



OF SPECIAL INTEREST

E-TEACHING LUNCHEON C21 ONLINE: USING DISTANCE LEARNING TECHNOLOGY

Learn who takes C21 Online courses, what instructional technologies are used, and hear what happens when people come together across time zones nationally and internationally to discuss matters of faith. For this presentation, Barbara Radtke will be discussing how C21 Online has utilized instructional technologies to bridge the gap between distance learners.

(Thursday, Dec. 3, Noon to 1 PM)
Please register by Nov. 27th.

<http://www.bc.edu/eteachinglunch>

ACADEMIC TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION GRANT LUNCHEON AND WORKSHOP

This event will recognize the most recent recipients of the ATIGs and highlight those who have recently completed their projects. After the recognition ceremony, there will be a chance for faculty members to meet with consultants to learn more about the grant process. Save the date. More details to follow. Keep your eye out for the next call for proposals this Spring. (Friday, February 19th in the Murray Function Room)

Edited by Peter Olivieri, olivieri@bc.edu

MOVING E-MAIL TO MICROSOFT EXCHANGE

The campus-wide project to move faculty and staff email and calendaring services to a robust Microsoft Exchange integrated system is underway. Information Technology Services (ITS) is focusing first on migrating administrative areas during the Fall Semester. When these are complete, academic departments will be addressed. Two pilot programs were completed. All ITS staff are actively working in the Exchange environment for email and calendaring. In a second pilot, on October 20, select staff from the O'Neill Library, Law Library, Athletics, and University Advancement moved to the Exchange environment. Pilot results, the current BCCR schedule, and input from Department Contacts are being considered and the plan for moving forward is in development. <http://bc.edu/exchange>

LECTURE CAPTURE

Lecture capture allows instructors to create audio/video recordings of classroom lectures or presentations. With lecture capture, instructors can record their presentations (both audio and video) including any material that gets projected onto the classroom's screen. To find out more about lecture capture, please visit [here](#).

INTERACTIVE MULTIMEDIA LAB (IML)

During the semester break, the IML (located at Gasson 2) will be undertaking an upgrade of all the hardware and software that is located there. This facility is a place where faculty can experiment with a wide variety of technologies - for a single class, several classes, or for a semester. For more information on the IML, please visit [here](#).

MICROSOFT OFFICE UPGRADES

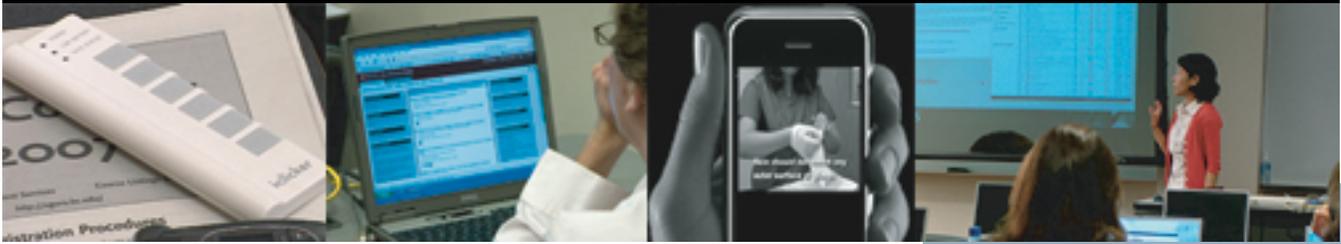
The Microsoft Exchange pilots (see above) have made clear that Outlook 2007 offers the optimal Exchange user experience. Therefore, ITS encourages all Windows users to upgrade from Office 2003 to Office 2007. Upgrades will occur prior to a Department's move to Exchange or as part of a Department's BCCR rollout, whichever occurs first. As part of these preparations, Mac users may be upgraded to Office 2008 or, in the future, Snow Leopard, depending on their email client choice and calendar usage. *Individuals may wish to upgrade sooner as the majority of students on campus now use Office 2007 (Windows) or Office 2008 (Mac).*

COMPUTER REPLACEMENT UPDATE

Non-Intel Macs (that are a faculty or staff member's primary workstation) will be replaced this academic year.

SPAM QUARANTINE SERVICE

To prevent spam or junk email from reaching your email account's inbox, ITS uses a spam blocking service which quarantines email messages it identifies as spam rather than delivering the messages to Junk folders. The service is easily accessed from the Agora Portal under Common Services. There, you can review quarantined messages, add specific senders to your "Safe Senders List," or opt to receive an email digest of quarantined messages.



NEWS AND NOTES

MAC OR PC ?

Activation records are showing an interesting trend in what kinds of computers students are bringing to campus. In 2005, First Year Students activated 301 Macs and 2,052 Windows computers. In 2009, First Year Students activated 1,477 Macs and 868 Windows computers.

BC APPLE STORE

The Boston College Bookstore is now an Apple Authorized Campus Store offering a wide variety of Apple products and a selection of computer hardware, software, and peripherals.

BACKUP WINDOWS OR MAC

ITS offers a remote, automated backup of your primary desktop or laptop computer through a contract with industry leader, Iron Mountain. Users of the service are offered automated backup of their computer and have the ability to recover files from any location using a Web browser. If you're not already using this service to back up your work, go to <http://bc.edu/backup> to learn more.

RESEARCH SERVICES HAS 2 NEW STAFF MEMBERS

Jianfang Liu, Research Statistician, has a Ph.D. in Quantitative Research, Evaluation, and Measurement and an M.A.S in Applied Statistics from The Ohio State University. Jianfang's proficiencies are experimental designs, regression analysis, applied multivariate statistics, categorical data analysis, and parametric and non-parametric statistics. She has expertise with statistical software such as SPSS and SAS. She is a SAS Certified advanced programmer.

Ronald Ko, Data Management Consultant, has an M.S. in Computer Science from Boston University. He is available to assist research groups to develop, optimize, and port databases; collect and disseminate data via dynamic Web pages; and assist research groups with grant applications as related to collecting, managing, disseminating data. Ron is proficient in Perl, Java, C#/C++/C, Python, Oracle, MySQL, PHP, and other various languages.

CREATIVE INSTRUCTION WITH CREATIVE TECHNOLOGY

There is a great website at BC that all faculty should visit. It has links to teaching tools, technology resources, technology classroom booking, faculty projects, and much more. It is provided by the BC Instructional Design and eTeaching Services group. Their mission is to assist instructors who integrate technology into their teaching. Through consultation, training and support, research and development, and project management, they help instructors transition their teaching practice to one that supports the ever-growing technology-driven student population.

BOOKMARK THIS SITE. (Be sure to check out the About us/Services section.) <http://idesweb.bc.edu/ides/website/>

VP FOR ITS RETIRES, SEARCH BEGINS

Many thanks to Marian Moore, VP for Information Technology Services, for her dedication and commitment to BC. Marian is retiring in December. During her tenure here, many significant advancements and improvements have been made on this campus, and she has built a highly competent, supportive, and talented staff. Thank you Marian. The University has started the recruitment/interview process and hopes to fill this position by the start of next semester.

OF SPECIAL INTEREST

WINDOWS 7

Microsoft commercially released Windows 7 on October 22, 2009. ITS is currently testing Windows 7 Enterprise for compatibility with BC-specific applications and services and recommends you wait to upgrade to Windows 7. For testing results, known issues, and more, go to <http://bc.edu/win7>.

Early Adopters: If you are willing to work with some compatibility issues and understand that support is limited at this time, go to <http://bc.edu/win7> for more information.

SNOW LEOPARD

The new Apple operating system, Snow Leopard (10.6) was released on August 28, 2009. ITS recommends waiting to upgrade as internal testing of BC-specific services and anti-virus software is being finalized. Not afraid of a few bugs? If you are anxious to try Snow Leopard right away, and understand that there may be some problems with it and that support is limited at this time, be an early adopter at <http://bc.edu/snowleopard>

BLACKBOARD VISTA VIDEO TUTORIALS

Several video tutorials are available for you to get familiar with Blackboard Vista. They include:

- Accessing Blackboard Vista
- Navigating your course homepage
- Adding folders, files and tools
- Uploading your Syllabus
- Adding a learning module
- Adding an assignment
- Setting up the grade book

Visit [here](#).