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Academic Computing Newsletter: Fall 1999

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Academic Computing Newsletter

SUNY BROCKPORT

New Chief Information Officer (CIO)

Dr. William Max Ivey has been appointed to the position of Associate Vice President for Information Technology Services. Dr. Ivey will officially begin his duties on January 1, 2000, but he intends to travel to Brockport for several 2-3 week stays during the Fall 1999 semester.

Dr. Ivey is Director of the Center of Computing Services and Telecommunications at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST). HKUST is a research institution focused on science, technology, engineering, business, and management with a curricular emphasis very much like MIT. Dr. Ivey has been at HKUST since 1988. Prior to current assignment, he was Assistant Vice President for Computing and Information Resources and Professor of Management at West Virginia University (1985-88), Director of University Computing at Auburn University (1982-85), and Director of Academic Computing Services and Assistant Professor of Public Affairs at Arizona State University (1974-82).

Dr. Ivey earned his Ph.D. from Arizona State University in 1979, an M.S. in computer science from the University of Houston (1972), and a B.S. from the University of Arizona. Before joining academia, Dr. Ivey's industry experience included work for TRW Corporation, Philco-Ford Corporation (a NASA contractor in Houston, Texas), and Motorola Semiconductor Corporation.

New Faces in Academic and Administrative Computing

Academic Computing Services welcomes our new Unix system administrator, Ron Prine. Ron will be responsible for creating e-mail accounts and listservs and maintaining Sun systems. Ron's office is 113 Dailey; e-mail: rprine@brockport.edu.

James Suplicki is joining Administrative Computing Services this fall as the new campus webmaster for official College Web pages. Jim's office is 2nd Floor Allen; e-mail: jsuplick@brockport.edu.

Welcome Ron and Jim!

Computer Skills Lab Opens

Room 213 Dailey Hall has been designated as a dedicated Computer Skills testing lab. 40 new 450 MHz Pentium III PCs have been installed for students. Edwina Billings will be the new Computing Skills Coordinator responsible for scheduling testing/training sessions in the new facility. For more information on the computer skills testing initiative, see: http://computerskills.brockport.edu

Edwina's office is 210 Dailey; phone 2666; e-mail is: ebilling@brockport.edu.

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Memory and Hard Drives Upgraded

Academic Computing Services has been busy getting ready for the fall semester. All 200 Mhz or greater PCs in Dailey Hall have been upgraded to 64MB RAM. Faster new 2.1 Gig hard drives have been installed on the Pentiums as well. Returning students will be greeted by version 5 of ExecMail in campus labs, new service packs have been added to Office 97, McAffee virus checking software has been updated, and Y2K PC BIOS checks are underway.

Teachnet

Teachnet is a local Brockport electronic discussion group for issues related to teaching and technology. Postings regarding events, questions, advice, etc. pertaining to classroom, advisement and administrative use of computers and technology are welcome. To subscribe, send e-mail to: listserv@brockport.edu

with the message:
subscribe teachnet
Once you have subscribed, you can mail postings to:
teachnet@brockport.edu

Satellite Labs

Please note that the Earth Sciences PC/Sun labs are now located in Lathrop. The new Sciences PC lab is located in 105 Smith.

TopClass News

TopClass is a course management system for delivering content via the Web. ACS has installed version 3.1 for Fall semester which is easier to learn and to use. Instructors wishing to learn more are encouraged to attend one of the TopClass sessions this semester in Dailey Hall.

If you are planning to use TopClass in your course this fall, you will not have to supply student names and social security numbers for TopClass accounts. Just return the fall ACS resource request forms and check off the box for TopClass, and we will pull student information from Eagle to create accounts. Resource request forms are available at:

www.acs.brockport.edu/request.html

TopClass userids and passwords will follow the same conventions as other student accounts. Plan to attend the TopClass training session on Fri. Sept. 17, 2:30-4:00 pm in Dailey to learn more. Call 2368 to register.

Coming Soon Fractional T3

The campus is in the process of upgrading its two T1 data lines to a fractional T3. This upgrade has been approved by the College Technology Council and hopefully will be implemented during the 1999-2000 academic year. The additional bandwidth will increase speed and capacity for WWW applications throughout the campus.

Software Update

ACS has annual renewable site-licenses for a limited number of software products for faculty and staff use. Included are:

Borland products

C++, Turbo Pascal and other compilers for Windows3.x, and Windows95 systems.

Mathematica for Suns

Mathematica is a full featured mathematical software package and is available for use on all campus Suns.

Microsoft

MS Office97 (Word, Excel, Access, and PowerPoint) suite for Windows95 and MS Office98 for MacOS have been purchased for faculty and staff offices through a volume license.

SUNY is in the process of negotiating a statewide contract for Microsoft products. It is hoped that this contract, covering faculty, staff, and students,will be in place for spring semester. Stay tuned.

SPSS 9 installed

SPSS, a statistical software package for Windows 95 has been upgraded to version 9. The new version features improved procedures that make it easier and faster to use.

Faculty and staff wishing to receive a copy of any of the above software packages may send e-mail to jsaracen@brockport.edu

New Test Scoring Procedures

ParScore is the new test scoring software being implemented this fall for instructors who use 5 and 10 item multiple choice scan sheets for exams and surveys. Three sessions are scheduled to acquaint faculty with the new format for test scoring output. Faculty are encouraged to attend. ACS is hosting three introductory sessions to acquaint all users with the new test scoring output reports as follows:

Tues. Sept 7th 1:30-2:30 pm

Weds. Sept. 8th 12:00-1:00 pm

Mon., Sept. 13th 3:00-4:00 pm

All sessions are held in Dailey Hall, Room 203. Call x-2368 to reserve a seat.

Frequently asked questions about test scoring:

1. Where do I get the forms?

Ans. Five and ten item response forms are ordered by department secretaries by sending a request form to the Print Shop (the request forms may be obtained by contacting Procurement Services / Allen 5th Floor). The Print Shop charges approximately $12 per pack of 500 response forms. The response forms are delivered to the ordering department.

2. Where do I take the forms after the exam?

Ans. A completed cover sheet, answer key and the forms can be dropped off at Data Processing, Tuttle North from 8 am-4 pm M-F or at the drop box at the University Police Office in Lathrop after 4:00 pm.

3. What is the expected turnaround time? How quickly can I pick them up?

Ans. Normal turnaround time for standard tests is 24 hours, but may be longer during periods of peak usage. You may pick up the results from Data Processing/Tuttle North.

4. What other options are available?

Ans. Some departments use local scanners in their building for quick results. Remember that departmental test scoring scanners do not use ParScore software to generate reports or keep cumulative records. They are best intended for one-time, non-cumulative quizzes and tests.

5. How can I post the results? What about confidentiality?

Ans. It is very important that whole social security numbers NOT be used to post results.

6. How is survey data processed?

Ans. Multiple choice scan sheets can also be used to process survey data. Raw data is generated and saved to an ASCII file that can then be used as input to SPSS, Excel or other software packages. You must indicate that you're requesting a survey data file at the time of processing and supply a name for the file you wish to save. Academic Computing Services will e-mail the data to you unless other arrangements have been made.

7. What if there are errors?

Ans. Report any errors to Data Processing, Tuttle North, ext. 2490.

8. How do I read the output?

Ans. Attend the PARSCORE sessions. See over.

9. I use my own gradebook software; can I input my test score results into it?

Ans. Yes, an ASCII file of raw data can similarly be generated for use in most 3rd party gradebook software for either PC or Macs.

10. I have more questions. Who can I ask?

Ans. Contact ACS at x-2368 or see the ParScore website at: www.parscore.com

Upcoming Technology Events:

Brockport High School is offering two computer related continuing ed classes. To register or for more information call 637-1865.

Internet 101

Internet 101 is a two-session introduction to the World Wide Web. The first workshop covers essential concepts and terms, accessing the Web from a home PC. Each one-hour session incorporates a mix of instruction and hands-on experience.

Fee: $15.00
2 Sessions (Oct. 12 & 19)
Instructior: S. Buckley
H.S. Business Lab 7-8:30 pm

Web Page Design

Covers HTML commands; buttons, graphics, textures, backgrounds, and text; animated graphics; audio; flowcharts; test and troubleshoot your Web Site.

This is a hands-on course which assumes no prior knowledge in Web Site Design.

Fee: $25.00
6 weeks (begins Sept. 28)
Instructor: B. Hudecek
H.S. 188 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Evaluating Web-Based Courses

RIT and TLT group are sponsoring "Evaluating Web-Based Courses: Shining a Flashlight on the Benefits, Problems and Costs of Teaching and Learning on the World Wide Web, Oct 1-2, 1999. Contact www.tltgroup.org

NYSC&TE '99, 34th Annual Conference, November 20 - 22, 1999, Buffalo, NY

The New York State Association for Computers and Technologies in Education Conference. Contact: http://www.nyscate.org/#events. NYSC&TE is the NYS Affiliate of ISTE and its annual conference draws 1000 participants from K-12, BOCES, and post-secondary institutions across the state and 150+ vendors interested in technology in education.

In the News:

Mark Anderson (Honors Program) is delivering the first lecture in a nationwide New Millennium course, beamed by satellite to1500 honors students at 80 college and universities across the country. Brockport students will participate via e-mail in class discussions with others Honors students across the U.S.

Where are they now?

James Shuler (Computer Science) and **Qing Shuler** (Admin. Computing) are moving to Sacramento where James will be employed by Hewlett Packard.

Matt Kirsch is now working for RG & E as a Unix system administrator.

Carty Ellis (Admin. Computing) is now working on DARS (Degree Audit System) at U. of Ohio in Oxford as a senior programmer. E-mail: ellisc@muohio.edu

Anne Parsons Receives Chancellor's Award

Special congratulations to **Anne H. Parsons**, Computing Resources Manager in ACS, on receiving this year's Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service. This award is a tribute to Anne's years of commitment and service to the College. Congratulations, Anne!

Brian Volkmar, Jeanne Saraceni, and Anne Parsons helping decommission the Prime (August 1999).

Fall 1999 ACS Workshops in Dailey Hall

Basic Information Technology (BIT)

Orientation Sessions for students

Academic Computing Services is offering a series of computing seminars beginning Tuesday, August 31, 1999 for students, faculty and staff. These one-hour introductory classes are held in 203 Dailey Hall.

Classes limited to faculty and staff are marked with an asterisk. All courses are available on a first-come basis; students are encouraged to sign-up in Dailey Hall, 2nd floor.

Basic Information Technology (BIT) sessions cover an overview of ACS including hardware and software available, logging on, e-mail, WWW and Netscape, accessing Drake Library, using the Student Information System, where to find help.

Tuesday, Aug. 31
　　1:30-2:30 pm or 4:30-5:30 pm

Wednesday, Sept. 1
　　1:15-2:15 pm or 7:00-8:00 pm

Thursday, Sept. 2
　　8:30-9:30 am or 11:30-12:30 pm

Friday, Sept. 3
　　9:30-10:30 am or 12:00-1:00 pm

Tuesday, Sept. 7
　　9:30-10:30 am or 3:00-4:00 pm

Wednesday, Sept. 8
　　10:45-11:45 am

Thursday, Sept. 9
　　11:30-12:30 pm

Register for the following sessions by calling Academic Computing Services at x-2368. To register for WebSAMI (budgeting info), call J. Conway at x-2565.

The following hands-on introductory training workshops are open to faculty, staff, and students.

Tuesday, Sept. 7:

MS-Word (Win95 word processing)	11:30-12:30 pm
ParScore* (test scoring software)	1:30-2:30 pm

Wednesday, Sept. 8:

ParScore* (test scoring software)	12:00-1:00 pm
SPSS (Win95 statistical software)	3:00-4:00 pm
MS-Word: (Win95 word processing)	7:00-8:00 pm

Thursday, Sept. 9:

SPSS (Win95 statistical software)	1:30-2:30 pm
MS-Excel (Win95 spreadsheet)	3:00-4:00 pm

Friday, Sept. 10:

Web Site Development	1:30 - 3:00 pm

Monday, Sept. 13:

ParScore* (test scoring software)	3:00-4:00 pm
WebSAMI * (budgeting info)	1:00-3:00 pm
Using the Suns (Intro to Unix)	4:00-5:00 pm

Tuesday, Sept. 14:

WebSAMI* (budgeting info)	10:00-12:00 pm
PowerPoint (Win95 presentation)	3:00-4:00 pm
Minitab (Win95 statistical software)	7:00-8:00 pm

Wednesday, Sept. 15:

MS-Word (Win95 word processing)	2:30-3:30 pm
Web Site Development	7:00-8:30 pm

Thursday, Sept. 16:

MS-Access (Win95 database)	10:00-11:00 am
UnCover Reveal* (Journal alerting service)	6:00-7:00 pm

Friday, Sept. 17:

TopClass* (Course management system)	2:30-4:00 pm

*　For faculty and staff only.

ACS General Information

Professional Staff

Director: Mary Jo Orzech
Office: 217 Dailey, Phone: 395-2368
E-Mail: morzech@brockport.edu

Computer Resources Manager: Anne Parsons
Office: 204 Dailey, Phone: 395-5470
E-Mail: aparsons@brockport.edu

Software Support Specialist: Jeanne Saraceni
Office: 208 Dailey, Phone: 395-2452
E-Mail: jsaracen@brockport.edu

Systems/Network Manager: Brian Volkmar
Office: 127 Dailey, Phone: 395-2417
E-Mail: bvolkmar@brockport.edu

User Services Coordinator: S. Reddy Anugu
Office: 207 Dailey, Phone: 395-2463
E-Mail: ranugu@brockport.edu

Programmer/Analyst: Ronald Prine
Office: 117 Dailey, Phone: 395-2624
E-Mail: rprine@brockport.edu

Useful URLs

• ACS On-line Request Forms
  http://www.acs.brockport.edu/accounts.html

• Computer Labs Across the Campus
  http://www.acs.brockport.edu/employapp.html

• TopClass (Web-based Course Management Software)
  http://www.acs.brockport.edu/tcpages/index.html

• Computer Skills Site
  http://computerskills.brockport.edu

• Faculty/Staff Survey Form
  http://www.acs.brockport.edu/survey.html

Telephone Numbers

Dailey Hall 2nd Floor Desk	395-2247
Dailey Hall 1st Floor Desk	395-2479
Computing Status Phone	395-2390
Dial Access Lines	395-2180
Fax	395-2399

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

Computer Labs in Dailey

202	Pentium PC Teaching Lab (28)
203	Pentium PC Teaching Lab (28)
205	Pentium PC Teaching Lab (40)
211	SHEL (8 PCs + 3 PowerMacs)
212	SUN Lab (28)
213	Computer Skills Lab (40)

SUNY Brockport WEB Servers

Official Campus Web Server
http://www.brockport.edu
Academic Computing Services Web Server
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.