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Academic Computing Newsletter: Spring 2000

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Academic Computing Newsletter

SUNY BROCKPORT

Volume 15, Number 2

January 2000

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.

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Hardware/Software Update

Upgrading PCs

One hundred PCs in three Dailey classrooms are being upgraded during the semester break. These systems include zip drives and DVD-ROM drives. In addition, the 203 classroom is being enlarged so that all Dailey PC classrooms can accommodate classes of at least 32 students.

This move is necessitated in part by the anticipated computer skills course that will be going on-line for Fall 2000. The older cpus (no monitors) are being recycled to campus offices and labs.

PowerMac G4s

Eight new PowerMac G4s systems with 17" Apple ColorSync Monitors were installed in Dailey 201. These systems will accommodate new software including PhotoShop 5.5, PageMaker 6.5, Illustrator, Director, Flash, and other processor/memory intensive applications.

Among the first to make use of this equipment is **Jack Rollwagen** (Anthropology) who will be teaching a course on Multimedia Methods in Anthropology during spring semester.

Mathematica for Suns

Mathematica is a full featured mathematical software package that is available for use on Suns in Dailey 212.

New Projectors

New ceiling mounted projectors have been installed over semester break in:

- Hartwell 122
- Dailey 205

The Proxima 9250+ projectors are 1000 lumens, are compatible with both PCs and Macs and can be used with classroom lights on. The projectors are a first step toward moving to smart classrooms with an instructor's station podium, etc. Eventually it is hoped that at least one classroom in each instructional building can be furnished in this way as part of an on-going multi-year project.

In addition, movable projectors on carts will be available in Cooper B8L, Drake Library, Tuttle North, Hartwell, Metro Center, and can be checked out from Media Services in Edwards Hall.

TopClass for Final Exams

On Dec 13th, all three sections of **Reginald Ocansey's** PEP 441 class became the first students on our campus to take their final exam on-line using TopClass.

Scheduling nearly 90 students was a test of the NT server and network's capability to scale for large concurrent classes. With minor delays of one-two minutes, the exam session went well. Hats off to Reggie and his students for trying this method of exam delivery (and for bringing paper copies as backup just in case).

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

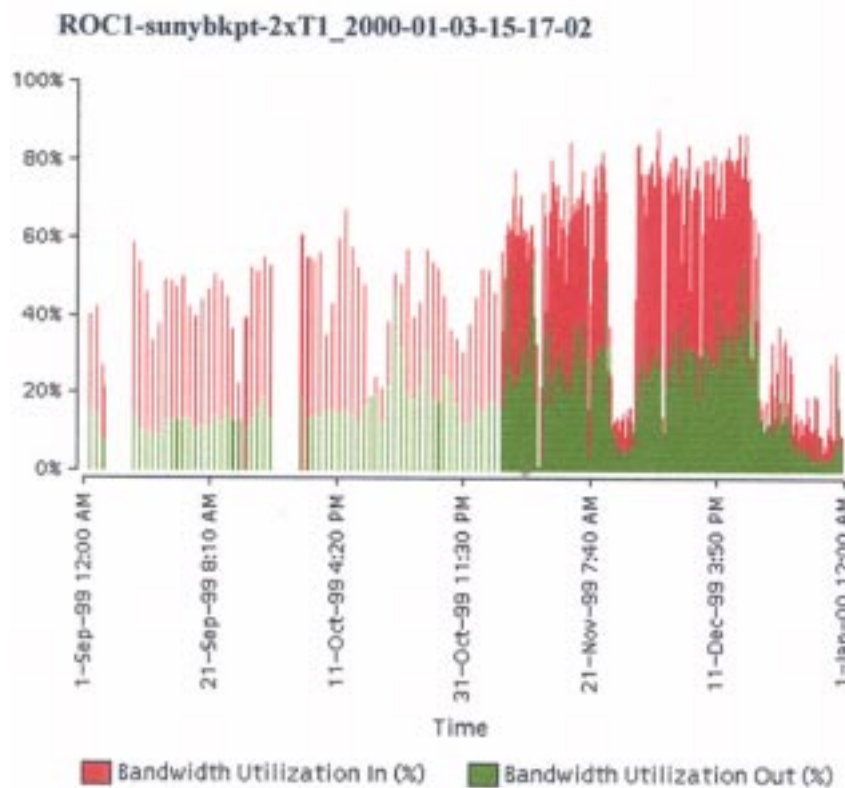


Chart A.

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.

The statistics were last updated Tuesday, 4 January 2000 at 10:24 , at which time 'at-sunybroc-1' had been up for 32 days, 1:19:14.

'Daily' Graph (5 Minute Average)

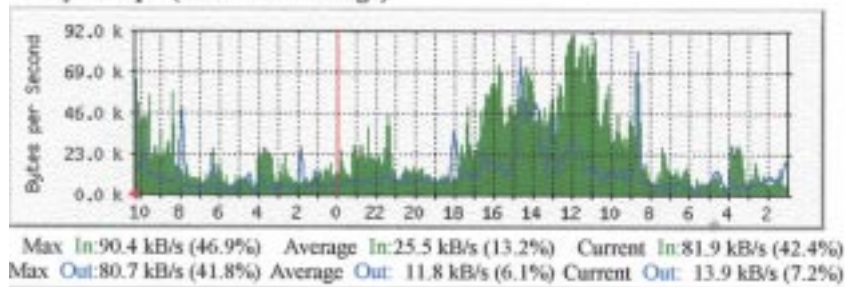


Chart B.

Chart B. indicates average network traffic in five minute intervals. Thanks to R. Smith, Tech Services, for charts.

Technology Events

CIT 2000

CIT 2000 - University at Buffalo is hosting the 9th annual SUNY Conference on Instructional Technology May 30 through June 1, 2000. Interested attendees can use SUNY Training points to cover the conference registration fee of \$130 (does not include pre- or post- workshops, transportation, or lodging). Training points are available on a first-come basis for up to five Brockport participants. Contact M. Orzech if you are interested. For more information, see the conference web site at:

<http://cit.suny.edu>

Apple Update

Two Apple related events were held in Dailey recently. In November, Dave Philips from Educational Technology Associates demonstrated some of the new features of Apple multimedia and Quicktime. In December, George Cook and Karl DiSalvia brought new Macintosh, IMac and IBooks to demonstrate Apple's new AirPort wireless technology.

AirPorts allow students in a classroom to connect their laptops to the Internet without a direct network connection using a low cost infrared station. This technology is envisioned to be useful in locations that are not wired, temporary in nature (e.g., playing fields, commencement, conferences, etc.).

SUNY Learning Network

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.

Campus Technology

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.

SUNY Brockport

Interactive Distance Learning

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, Genesee, 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.

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

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.

ASL	112	Beg. American Sign Language II	TR	3:45- 5:15 p.m.
ASL	111	Beg. American Sign Language I	TR	6:00- 7:30 p.m.

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.