



<http://ittimes.ucdavis.edu/>

MyUCDavis Awaits Graduation Day

Computing Councils Give the Green Light

BY BABETTE SCHMITT

On March 29, at a rare joint meeting of the Academic and Administrative Computing Coordinating Councils, over 30 campus administrators, faculty members, and staff representatives gave the MyUCDavis portal a resounding vote of approval.

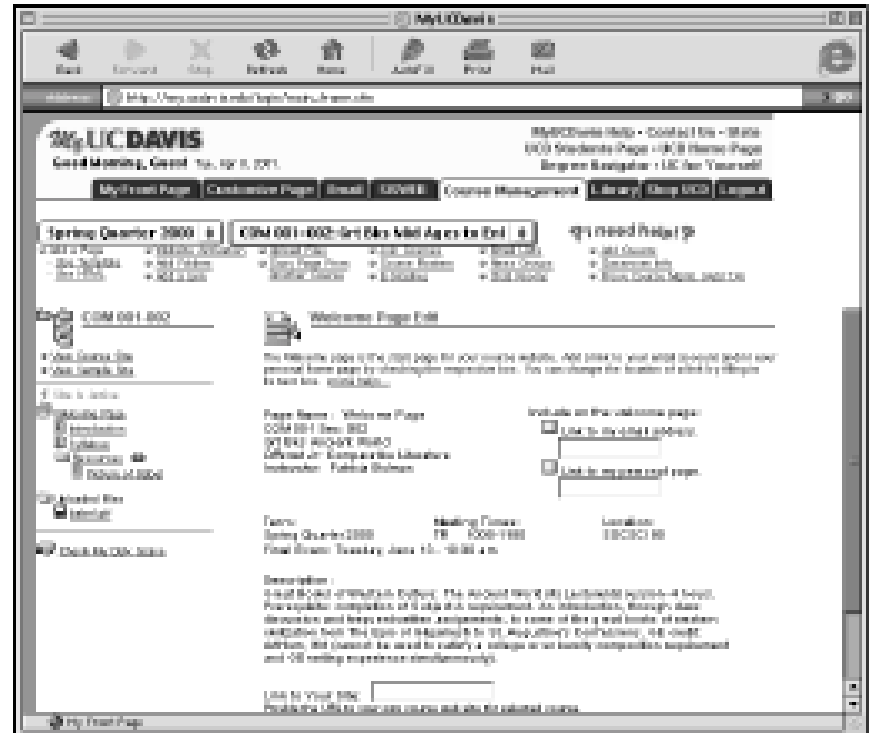
After 18 months of development work and a six-month pilot, MyUCDavis got one step closer to graduating *magna cum laude* into Tier 1 status. If the Information Technology Policy Board approves the Councils' recommendation at its May 17 meeting, the pilot project will be elevated into the realm of mission-critical computing systems, joining ranks with the well-established financial system (DaFIS) and student information system (Banner).

To extend the portal to all faculty and students and to provide reliable, around-the-clock support for the system, the Councils also recommended the allocation of \$187,000 in permanent annual funds. This budget does not cover any features or functionality beyond those already available. Instead the Councils proposed to use Instructional Technology Funds to implement two new features (an electronic grade book and a self-test module) that the AC4 Subcommittee on Course Management Systems reported faculty had requested.

The Councils' recommendations stem in large part from the success of the pilot and the widely-embraced notion that portal technology can improve the campus' ability to serve students, staff, and faculty. Those who have used the MyUCDavis portal see great potential ahead: over 75 percent of survey respondents indicated that it had improved their productivity and believed it will help attract prospective students.

Carol Wall, Vice Chancellor for Students Affairs, and one of the project sponsors agreed. "We need to make information easy to access for students," Wall says. "By combining efforts with other units and leveraging portal technology, we can improve our delivery of information and services to students, both current and prospective. And we can do this in new and more efficient ways. I am thrilled with our recommendation to expand MyUCDavis so more students can benefit from it."

As we get ready to open a new MyUCDavis chapter, we can't help but wonder what lies ahead. And that is exactly what the Councils asked a special committee to report on. More specifically, they asked the UC Davis New Business Architecture Steering Committee to investigate the possible expansion of MyUCDavis to include an enterprise portal that would provide a one-stop gateway into all major administrative services. That will be the day, in the not-so-distant future, when MyUCDavis might graduate *summa cum laude*.



One feature of MyUCDavis (<http://my.ucdavis.edu/>) is the course management tools which enable instructors to easily post class materials on the Web, set up class email lists and chatrooms, and create links to other information.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Web sites seem to be cropping up all over campus. In this issue, we highlight several.

MyUCDavis: The pilot has ended and the campus computing coordinating councils recently made a recommendation to maintain this site.

Computer Ownership: A new site on the upcoming Student Computer Ownership expectation is also up and ready to answer parents' and incoming students' questions (highlighted as a Web exclusive).

Direct Deposit: Faculty and staff now can use a Web site to request reimbursements be deposited directly into their bank accounts.

Finally, in another Web exclusive, we cover a pilot e-recruitment site.

Also in this issue, we run the second column in a series on women in technology, and we launch a new column on security issues. This one outlines what we can all do to combat computer viruses.

Be sure to check out the *IT Times* Web site for the full content of all the stories printed here and for Web exclusive content.

Next Issue

Our next issue will come out in mid-June. In it, we will preview all of IET's summer projects and the changes that will be awaiting us in the fall.

As always, we welcome comments, questions, and suggestions at itpubs@ucdavis.edu.

Have You Signed Up For Direct Deposit?

BY MARY SUE HEDRICK

Looking for a way to make fewer trips to the bank? You should know about a new campus service called "direct deposit." This new Web-based service enables faculty and staff to have expense reimbursements deposited directly into their bank accounts. Students can use the program to receive direct deposit payments for financial aid or other money the campus owes them.

"This program has been most popular with students, with more than 1,200 already enrolled," says Ray Reveles, project manager. "Students like the program because they can use it to collect their financial aid, something they usually have to wait in long lines to collect every quarter — especially in the fall." This article highlights the process for getting this service launched and explains how you can take advantage of it.

Complete story online at:
<http://ittimes.ucdavis.edu/mar2001/eft.html>.

Spanish Without Walls

Using Technology to Teach Language Anywhere

BY JEFF VAN DE POL

As California's college student population grows to record levels, faculty and administrators are exploring new ways to provide a high quality education. One of the most promising approaches taps the power of distance learning, and a UC Davis language professor is at the forefront of this effort.

Dr. Robert Blake, in collaboration with Dr. Maria Victoria Gonzalez Pagani of UC Santa Cruz, is developing a university-level Spanish language course that will be taught completely outside of the classroom. Spanish Without Walls will be offered in the fall through University Extension. Students will be able to utilize a series of interactive CD-ROMs and a database-driven Web site to practice their language skills, complete assignments and exams, and even interact with classmates and professors in real time.

Complete story online at:
<http://ittimes.ucdavis.edu/mar2001/blake.html>

Smile and Say Cheese...

Photographer at Work

BY ROGER ASHTON

Whether it's 4 a.m. at the milking barn or at a cleanup operation with the fire department's HAZMAT unit, Debbie Aldridge, senior photographer at IET Mediaworks, has probably seen every facet of this campus through the lens of her camera. In her 21 years on campus, she has seen parts of the campus that few others see. And often, she has very little idea what scene she will encounter until she arrives. "That's what makes this job unusually fun and exciting," Aldridge says. "I really get to think and compose on the fly."

Most of Aldridge's work has been for research and public relations, but with the recent restructuring of Mediaworks, increasingly she is applying her talents to support the instructional goals of the campus.

"At Mediaworks, we have the best of both worlds," says Aldridge. "We're connected with the campus in a unique way — we interact with the best in research and teaching, but we also get to see the campus in such a personal way."

Documenting Visual Presentation Professor and Design Gallery Director Dolph Gotelli's famous Christmas Collection is a good example. Aldridge recently photographed hundreds of intricate Christmas objects displayed in Gotelli's home. An international expert and lecturer on the subject of Christmas, Christmas rituals, and Santa Claus, he had not displayed the entire collection for five years because of its large size. Now, thanks to Aldridge's work, he will be able to incorporate slides of the various displays into his lectures.

Aldridge graduated from the Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara. There she embraced the Brooks philosophy of "learning by doing." She brought it with her when she started a two-week internship at UC Davis in 1980 and has been practicing it here on campus ever since. "I really appreciate being a photographer with Mediaworks



Debbie Aldridge at work.



One of Aldridge's photos of Professor Gotelli's Christmas collection.

because it gives me an opportunity to see what the university is all about — how far reaching it is," she said.

For more information about photography or other Mediaworks services, go to <http://mediaworks.ucdavis.edu/>, call 752-2133, or drop by their campus location at Surge II, by the Silo.

Deterring Plagiarism

Web Can Be Foe or Friend

BY ANDY JONES, COORDINATOR OF COMPUTER-AIDED INSTRUCTION, ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

With the Web enabling so many students to download pre-written papers and reference materials, most of us are getting quite concerned about the rise of plagiarism. Certainly, there is a lot of junk on the Web, but students can also take advantage of a huge array of online resources, such as Lexis-Nexis, the Oxford English Dictionary, and UC Davis' own online library databases. We need to remind ourselves that today's student researcher can do much more with the Web than bid on poorly-written and stolen essays. This article outlines how you can take advantage of campus and Web resources to detect plagiarism and how you can better prepare your students to use online sources responsibly.

Complete story online at:
<http://ittimes.ucdavis.edu/mar2001/youasked.html>



Apple's Newest Operating System Offers New Features, Interface...

But Wait

BY JEMMY SHI



Mac fans, rejoice. Apple's newest operating system, OS X, was made available for purchase on March 24. OS X brings a number of major upgrades to the Mac front, including a revamped core and a new interface. The new operating system reportedly allows Apple to escape some of the limitations of its previous operating systems and promises better stability, scalability, and performance. But because it is new, OS X is not without its share of problems. To learn more about the potential benefits and drawbacks, read the complete story online.

Complete story online at:
<http://ittimes.ucdavis.edu/mar2001/macosex.html>

The Future of Work, by Charles Grantham

BOOK REVIEW BY NANCY HARRINGTON



I may have slipped into total curmudgeon-hood, or maybe my quest to read so many books on technology in the workplace has finally taken its toll, or maybe I'm overdue for vacation. Whatever. But Grantham's opus gave me a really good snooze (when I wasn't feeling irritated by reading yet another attempt to cash in on the book-buying public's hunger for a unified field theory on the interaction of work and technology). Let me say right up front, I acknowledge I may be overreacting; there may be many individuals who will find this book fascinating and informative. My bifocals are off to them! In this review, I list four major objections I have to this tome—not the least of which is his reference to the human brain as "wetware."

"The Future of Work" was published by CommerceNet Press, McGraw-Hill, 2000.

Complete story online at:
<http://ittimes.ucdavis.edu/mar2001/review.html>

Women in Technology

Seizing the Opportunity

A profile of Sylvia Baldwin

BY RICHARD DARSIE



Sylvia Baldwin shows off a few of the many servers that she and her coworkers support at the UC Davis Medical Center.

Note: This is the second in a series of profiles of UC Davis women who provide technical assistance and expertise to the campus.

Fueled by her fascination with computers and aided by supportive colleagues, Sylvia Baldwin embarked on a new career in technology over a decade ago. Taking every opportunity to learn new skills, and studying long hours on her own, she gradually acquired the expertise to move from a clerical/administrative position to a technical one. Now, as a server administrator at the UC Davis Medical Center (UCDMC), her hard-won expertise helps support thousands of doctors, nurses, and patients. She and her coworkers make use of the latest technology to provide support from their own offices to over 5,000 users in locations all over Sacramento and beyond.

Complete story online at:
<http://itimes.ucdavis.edu/mar2001/baldwin.html>.

Along with Allergies and Mosquitos, Spring Beckons Continued Threat of Computer Viruses

BY ROBERT ONO, CAMPUS SECURITY COORDINATOR

Today, an estimated 56,000 personal computer viruses are on the prowl, and this number is growing rapidly. About 80 percent of the latest viruses, such as the recent VBS-Kournikova, are designed to replicate themselves as email attachments sent to every address listed in the infected computer's address book. Once an unsuspecting user opens the infected email attachment, the virus is initiated and, depending on the particular virus, may alter your computer's hard drive and/or files.

According to the ICSA, a security research firm, the likelihood of an organization experiencing a major computer virus outbreak has doubled during each of the past five years. The organizational cost per virus incident is substantial and increasing. Besides the potential loss or damage to data and productivity, it takes a lot of time and resources to clean up infected personal computers and servers. If you consider the expected campus growth and the development of far more sophisticated viruses, the potential for increased reports of lost or damaged information and greater number of staff resources impacted by computer virus outbreaks is enormous.

Find out what you can do to protect your data and personal computers from attack.



Steve Oerding

Complete story online at:
<http://itimes.ucdavis.edu/mar2001/virus.html>.

Technology Support Program Shapes New Leadership and Focus

BY MARY SUE HEDRICK



Tecoy Porter, with his wife Karlette, at last summer's UCCSC event. See the IT Times Web site for a profile of Porter.

Is there someone in your department or college, like a computer resource specialist or system administrator who helps you with your computer when something on it breaks? Ever wonder how this person plugs into Information and Educational Technology (IET)? Well, IET's conduit to campus technology professionals is the Technology Support Program (TSP), a program that under the direction of TSP Coordinator Tecoy Porter has grown into a community of support personnel bent on helping each other.

Looking to the Future

Porter recently left the university to pastor his church, leaving this key position unfilled... and providing an opportunity to re-think the role of the TSP Coordinator and ensure a

good fit with the campus' needs. "We are rewriting the coordinator position so that it better aligns with the strategic direction the campus is taking with technology and integrates with the newly formed workgroups and committees, such as the Technology Infrastructure Forum," says Pat Kava, manager of IET's Technology Coordination Unit. Kava, who oversees the TSP, is assuming the role of interim TSP Coordinator while the position is redefined and eventually filled. Kava says the position should be posted in April.

More on the TSP

The TSP includes six IET staff members, called Information Technology Representatives (ITRs) who support members of the campus technical community through training and communication. To benefit from the program, campus technology professionals must join the TSP and become Technology Support Coordinators (TSCs).

So, what do TSCs get when they join? Access to technology training on topics ranging from basic HTML to Linux security and several certificate programs such as Web development and NT Server. They also get access to a widely-used listserv, tsp-share@ucdavis.edu, to which they can post questions and issues and receive answers from their technical peers, usually in minutes. ITRs post current issues and outages to the list. The TSP also holds well-attended quarterly meetings in which TSCs and IET staff share their projects, services, issues, and success stories. This year, there are 384 campus departmental staff enrolled in the program, up from 30 in June 1995 when the program was initiated.

Becoming a TSC

To become a TSC, simply fill out the Authorization Form at <http://tsp.ucdavis.edu/authorization.cfm>. It will generate a letter which must be signed and returned to the TSP by your department manager. You will then receive a confirmation letter via campus mail with your orientation date, time, and location.

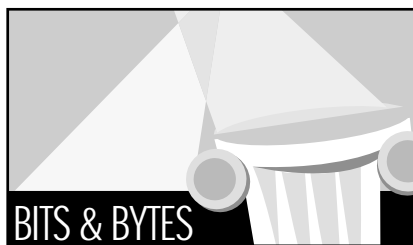
For more information, check out the TSP Web site at <http://tsp.ucdavis.edu/>.

Middleware Symposium Held at UC Davis

BY AUTUMN BOUCK

In January, almost 70 individuals from all of the UC campuses and UC Office of the President convened on campus for the Symposium on Middleware sponsored by Information and Educational Technology (IET). Ken Klingenstein, project director of the Internet2 Middleware Initiative and chief technologist at the University of Colorado at Boulder, was the featured speaker. Klingenstein gave presentations on current activities in middleware and led a technical discussion of enterprise directory services and other middleware issues. The day-long meeting was attended by Technology Infrastructure Forum (TIF) members, IET staff, and UC colleagues.

Complete story online at:
<http://itimes.ucdavis.edu/mar2001/middleware.html>.



Orienting Faculty to Classroom Media Equipment

For the last three quarters, Information and Educational Technology has implemented a Meet and Greet program during the first week of classes to train faculty on media equipment installed in 40 general assignment classrooms—located in Art, Chemistry, Everson, Haring, Kleiber, Olson, Roessler, Social Science and Humanities, Veihmeyer, and Young.

If you did not have the opportunity to get a Meet and Greet orientation or attend a training session, you may schedule a personal training session at The Arbor in 161 Everson, by calling 754-2115. Be sure to bring your laptop with you to the training.

Information is also available online:

- UC Davis Faculty Technology Guide, 2000-2001 (<http://ftg.ucdavis.edu/>)
- UC Davis network access (<http://netaccess.ucdavis.edu/>)
- UC Davis audio-visual services (<http://av.ucdavis.edu/>)

For general questions about the Meet and Greet program and/or the classroom media equipment, please feel free to contact Robert Ralston at rralston@ucdavis.edu or 752-5139.

Complete story online at:

<http://ittimes.ucdavis.edu/mar2001/meetgreet.html>.

Planning for Annual Summer Institute Underway

Is there someone in your department who has found a successful use of technology that others on campus might want to hear about? This summer, for the eighth year, the Teaching Resources Center and Instructional and Educational Technology are once again sponsoring the Summer Institute for Technology in Teaching (SITT). The program will run from July 23 - 27 and is open to faculty, career staff whose work is directly related to instruction, and teaching assistants who are assigned to a specific course in 2001-2002. For an application and more information, see <http://trc.ucdavis.edu/trc/sitt/>. The Teaching Resources Center is filling the SITT program and recruiting faculty presenters. Please contact the TRC (752-6050) if you are interested in making a presentation or have a skill that you would like to teach in a lab.

Complete story online at:

<http://ittimes.ucdavis.edu/mar2001/sitt.html>.

New Interface for Campus Online Directory

UC Davis' email and phone directory (<http://ldap.ucdavis.edu/>) has been replaced by a new directory (<http://www.ucdavis.edu/directory.html>). The new directory page has been available for several months and provides more user-friendly search capabilities, with tips and links to other useful on- and off-campus directories.

Are You Ready to Go Beyond the Average PowerPoint Presentation? Ask The Experts!

Come and join Steven Oerding and Bert Craig of Mediaworks as they show you how to step out and beyond the box. Learn how to make your presentations capture an audience's attention and focus throughout your entire program. Learn the techniques used to prepare and place videos and specialty graphics and how to create your own presentations for instructional purposes. The presentation will be on Wednesday, April 18 at 10 a.m. in the Arbor (161 Everson). RSVP by calling the Arbor at 754-2115. Future events may include: photography, animation, art & design, and digital video.

Annual UC Computing Conference

This year's University of California Computing Services Conference (UCCSC) will be held July 8-10 on the UCLA campus. The conference, held last year at UC Davis, brings together technology professionals from all UC campuses. Proposals for presentations were due March 31. For details on the program and registration, visit the UCCSC Web site (<http://uccsc.ats.ucla.edu/>). If you have questions about the conference, contact Greg Fellin at gcfellin@ucdavis.edu or 757-3409.

Web Exclusives

<http://ittimes.ucdavis.edu/>

- New Campus Operator Directory System
- Computer Ownership Web Site
- Digital Audio Facility
- E-Recruitment Site
- Profile of Tecoy Porter, former TSP coordinator (see p. 3)
- New UC Employee Online Benefits Summary

Electronic Library Resources Now Available Anywhere

BY HEATHER THOMPSON

UC Davis' Library Services has expanded access to its online databases for students, staff, and faculty who want to do their research from off-campus. Until now, UC Davis affiliates could mine a rich store of resources, including the California Digital Library, only from an on-campus connection. With a few changes to your Web browser settings, you can now search via a "proxy server" for articles and books on everything from chromium to Milton and the Romantics.

UC Davis users with a LoginID and a Kerberos password can access the Library's electronic journals (nearly 3,000 in all), book and article databases, catalogs, and various online texts. With the assistance of programmers in Information and Educational Technology, Library Services has designed a secure way to get to all of this information via a non-UC Davis network connection. "More and more of our users want the flexibility to conduct research remotely," says Gail Yokote, director of Library Services. "We have had a lot of demand for this service, and we are really glad to offer it."

This article highlights how to use the service, identifies the kinds of resources you can access, and provides a frequently asked questions sidebar to make it easy for you to get the help you need to take advantage of this new service.



The new proxy server gives access to library databases from around the world.

Complete story online at:

<http://ittimes.ucdavis.edu/mar2001/proxy.html>.

Computing Accounts Get Leaner and Simpler

BY AUTUMN BOUCK

EZ accounts. FZ accounts. SZ accounts. Old-Style LoginIDs. New style Login-IDs. UCD LoginIDs. If all of this sounds like alphabet soup, read on. Information and Educational Technology (IET) has initiated a project to clean up these acronyms, convert old accounts, and streamline access to campus online services. When this project is completed on April 23, you'll need to remember only three terms: computing account, UCD LoginID, and Kerberos password.

Although everyone who's opened a computing account since September 1996 has been assigned the same type of LoginID, there are still some people who, for a number of reasons, are using the older style. The IET project team is working with these people to retire their Old-Style accounts. Those who need to convert their accounts are being notified by email about the change. Approximately 400 people campuswide will be affected.

Complete story online at:

<http://ittimes.ucdavis.edu/mar2001/accts.html>.



Email: itpubs@ucdavis.edu
Web: <http://ittimes.ucdavis.edu/>

The IT Times is published by the Office of the Vice Provost—Information and Educational Technology, University of California, Davis, to inform the campus community of information and educational technology services, initiatives, and activities at UC Davis. It is distributed free of charge to members of the user community and to other universities. Use of trade or corporation names in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the University of California, Davis. IT Times articles may be reprinted as long as the source is accurately quoted and credited.

Editor: Donna Justice (530) 754-9832
Assistant Editor: Autumn Bouck
Webmaster/Desktop Publisher: Richard Darsie
Writers: IET staff, unless otherwise specified
Artist: Steve Oerding



Copyright Regents of the University of California, 2001