No Lazy Days In Summer for IT

BY DONNA JUSTICE

At this time of year, we may all be looking forward to the lazy days of summer, but summer will be anything but lazy for Information Technology (IT) at UC Davis. Here are some of the highlights of major projects and activities.

Instructional Technology and Digital Media Center: The Division of Information Technology (IT) is making a few organizational adjustments. By fall, IT’s instructional technology services will be housed in the new Center. The Center, created to provide a service-oriented entry point for faculty, will be composed of units within IT already providing instructional technology services to faculty, including Instructional Services, Instructional Media, and staff from other units.

Final decisions about staffing will be determined once the Center’s Faculty Director is on board, or around July 1. No major interruption of instructional technology services is anticipated.

Audi Visual Equipment Loan and Repair—those within Instructional Media who provide everything from overhead projectors and VCRs to audio recorders and public address systems—will not be part of the Center. Starting July 1, they will be under the management of Information Resource’s computer labs and classrooms unit.

For details on the development of the Center, see http://vpiet.ucdavis.edu and the Update on p. 2.

Instructional Technology Funds (ITF) Projects: Several projects with campuswide implications are underway, all scheduled to be completed this fall. Several will make mobile computing on campus much easier. Most notably, two projects will enable laptop users to plug into the network from a variety of locations on campus, and another will provide limited access to high-speed wireless connections. In addition, MyUCDavis, a new Web portal site designed to make it easier for students and faculty to access UC Davis’ online services from any Web browser, will be in pilot stage in the fall; full campus service is anticipated late fall quarter. MyUCDavis is a joint project sponsored by Undergraduate Studies, Student Affairs, and the Registrar’s Office. For more information on all of the ITF projects, see http://it.ucdavis.edu/itf.

Classroom Upgrades: By fall, 30 of UC Davis’ 120 general use classrooms will be treated to an overhaul. In addition to new paint, carpet, and furniture, each of these classrooms will receive new audio-visual equipment and “Smart Panels” to control the equipment. For more information, see “Classrooms Receive Facelift this Summer” on p. 3.

Computer Lab Changes: Summer is typically a busy time for Lab Management. Hardware and software upgrades will be completed in several computer labs by fall. For more information, see “Computer Lab Renovations” on p. 2.

Conferences/Training: This summer, a number of technology-related conferences and training opportunities will be held on campus:

• IT will be hosting the annual University of California Computing Services Conference (UCCSC) for IT professionals from all ten UC campuses. For more information, see “Computing Services Conference Comes to UC Davis” on p. 3.

• For those interested in Windows 2000 deployment, IT will be hosting a presentation and a technical seminar focused on implementation of the new operating system on campus. For more information, see “Win2K Recommendations and Seminars” on p. 3.

• The Teaching Resources Center will be hosting the seventh annual Summer Institute on Technology in Teaching (SITT) conference. Instructors interested in how best to employ technology for instruction should consider taking advantage of this hands-on training opportunity. For more information, see “Hands-On Learning at Summer Technology Institute” on p. 2.

Travel Made Easy on the Web

BY SUMIKO KANZAKI

The end of the academic year looms just around the corner, and with the joyous echo of pomp and circumstance comes a three-month window for endless vacation delights. This summer, instead of running to the nearest travel agent or scanning the vast volumes of AAA tourbooks, turn to the Web. Booking airline tickets, hotels, rental cars, and campgrounds is a snap on the Web. Best of all, the Web provides notable discounts on everything from plane tickets to European five-star hotels. With this wealth of resources, no one should plan a trip without consulting the Web first.

For the complete text of this article, visit our Web site at http://it.ucdavis.edu/it.times/summer2000/travel.html.
Focus on Hiring, Restructuring in Summer

By Richard Darsie

As part of ongoing efforts to improve faculty services and strengthen campuswide IT policy and planning, the Office of the Vice Provost—Information and Educational Technology enters the summer with a focus on two important initiatives: the UC Davis Technology Infrastructure Forum and the Instructional Technology and Digital Media Center.

The Division of Information Technology will also spend the next few months filling key leadership posts and realigning staff to better meet campus needs.

Technology Infrastructure Forum

A son in "Web Site Highlights Campuswide Role" (IT Times, A pr/May 2000: http://it.ucdavis.edu/it/times/may2000/ vpiet.html), Vice Provost John Bruno has proposed the creation of a UC Davis Technology Infrastructure Forum. This group, which will include representatives from all campus schools, colleges, and administrative units, will provide ongoing discussion and coordination of information technology issues of major campuswide importance. Bruno is now working with A pr/May, deans, vice chancellors, and other campus leaders to submit nominees for Forum membership. The deadline is May 5, a good number of nominations had been received. "I am very pleased with the quality of the nominees," says Bruno. "We're going to have a really good group to work with. The campus will benefit from the expertise of the members of this Forum."

Once all representatives are identified, Dr. Bruno will select a chair and co-chair for the group. The first meeting will take place before the end of the quarter.

Recruitment and Hiring

Current recruitment activity in the Vice Provost's Office falls into two major categories: positions in the faculty service-focused Instructional Technology and Digital Media Center and positions in the Vice Provost's Office itself.

Interviews for the Director position are in progress. This is a 50 percent-time position to be filled by a UC Davis faculty member. A Director is expected to be hired in June.

Interviews for the Associate Director position (closed) are expected to take place as soon as the Director has been hired.

The MSO position has been filled by Penny Farnham, formerly an MSO with IT-Creative Communications Services. Starting in her new role on June 1, Farnham says she looks forward to focusing on faculty. "I am excited about the opportunity to assist the Center's Director and Associate Director in facilitating collaboration with faculty members on digital media projects," says Farnham. "I know we will be able to successfully meld the different IT units that are coming together to form the Center into a new, unified single entity with a strong focus on providing services to faculty."

For the complete text of this article, visit our Web site at http://it.ucdavis.edu/it/times/summer2000/labs.html.

Computer Lab Renovations

By Autumn Bouck

The summer months are typically a time of change and upgrades to the campus computer rooms, and this summer is no different. Lab Management will take advantage of the smaller numbers of students to close and renovate several of the campus labs. "This is the only opportunity," says Peter Blando, manager of campus computer labs and classrooms, "to make any major changes without impacting academic functions."

Lab Management plans a major renovation of one facility and minor renovations to six facilities. In addition, some software upgrades are scheduled.

Bovine Online v.5

By Mary Sue Hedrick

Bessie, the quintessential online cow, will be releasing the fifth version of her software CD, Bovine Online v.5, in early September at the UC Davis Bookstore. This year, the Internet software package developed for UC Davis affiliates includes newer versions of Netscape and Eudora, as well as compression, telnet, ftp, and anti-virus software. All of the documentation and installers are included on one user-friendly, inexpensive CD. For more information, check out Bessie's Web site at http://online.ucdavis.edu or purchase the CD in early September.

IT Progress Report Now Available

By Donna Justice

Since the Division of Information Technology's (IT) Five-Year Administrative Unit Review (AUR) was completed in April 1999, IT has made a great deal of progress in response to the report's 43 recommendations. The first annual Progress Report is now available online at http://it.ucdavis.edu/adminrev/progress.

The Progress Report outlines steps taken to fulfill the recommendations. Most notably, since the hiring of John Bruno, Vice Provost—Information and Educational Technology, in September 1999, several key posts within the Vice Provost's Office have been filled or are in active recruitment. Dr. Bruno has also initiated a realignment of services within IT and the creation of the Instructional Technology and Digital Media Center. These developments are in direct response to the recommendations made by the AUR Committee last year.

The AUR focused on five overarching themes: Academic Priorities, Delineation of Responsibilities, Institutional Ownership, IT as a Campus Policy Advisor and Organization and Access. The initial IT response, which addresses all 43 recommendations, was presented to Provost Gray on July 7, 1999, and is online at http://it.ucdavis.edu/adminrev/AUR_Response.html.

Hands-On Learning at Summer Technology Institute

By Barbara Sommer, Teaching Resources Center

Thinking of putting up a course Web page? Or creating some computer slides to enliven a lecture? The technology is here. If you are interested, consider attending the 7th Annual Summer Institute in Technology in Teaching (SITT), on campus from July 17-21. Sponsored by the Teaching Resources Center, SITT is a learning opportunity created for faculty by faculty.

In the mornings, featured speakers will demonstrate what technology can add to your instruction and show the latest tools for online quizzes, grade books, threaded discussion, creating virtual sections, and interactive language learning sessions. Participants will hear differing viewpoints on the usefulness of these technological advances, what problems they entail, and how the benefits and drawbacks can be assessed.

The afternoon sessions will provide an opportunity for participants to practice hands-on skills. Labs will be offered on computer-based class presentations, creating course Web pages, scanning and modifying images for lectures and Web sites, and using sound and motion to construct multimedia modules. Participants also will have an opportunity to learn more about class mailing lists, course rosters, email, and more.

Most of the presentations are appropriate for those just stepping into the technological waters. There will also be presentations and labs for the more advanced. SITT participants can take a technical tour of classrooms with the latest projection systems and SmartPanel multimedia connections and try out the technology before using it in their classes with 300 students watching.

Although the application deadline was May 31, late applications will be accepted as long as space remains. There is no charge, and lunch is provided. Faculty and career staff whose work is directly related to instruction are encouraged to apply. Teaching assistants assigned to a specific course in 2000-2001 are eligible. The dates and times are July 17-21, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. If you are interested, apply online at http://trc.ucdavis.edu/trc/sitt.html or call 752-6050.
Classrooms Receive Facelift this Summer

BY MARY SUE HEDRICK

Summer is the time for classroom building and renovation on many university campuses. At UC Davis this summer, Olson Hall will receive the lion’s share of classroom upgrades thanks to the Classroom Development Project sponsored by the Office of the Registrar. Classrooms in Olson Hall will be equipped with new carpeting and seating, tabletop podiums, chalkboard units with vertically sliding panels, new paint, and a slick device known as a SmartPanel.

For the complete text of this article, visit our Web site at http://it.ucdavis.edu/it.times/summer2000/smart.html.

Computing Services Conference Comes to UC Davis

BY MARY SUE HEDRICK

Hosted at a different UC campus every year since its inception in 1989, the University of California Computing Services Conference (UCCSC) is coming to UC Davis July 23-25. The conference is an opportunity for professionals from all 10 campuses to discuss and report on current UC -related information technology issues. Titled “Portal to the Future,” topics for this year's conference include Windows 2000, Citrix/thin-client technology, e-commerce, wireless communications, and portal implementation.

For more information, to submit a proposal, or to register for the conference, visit the UCCSC Web site at http://uccsc.ucdavis.edu.

Reminder:

Campus Directory Updates Needed

BY JEMMY SHI

Staff and faculty who have recently changed their phone number, job title, department, location, email address, name, or employee ID should send those updates immediately to Directory Services. (Before submitting updates, check with your department’s administrative staff to make sure they have not already sent in changes.) A current and current records are needed as soon as possible to assure that they are reflected in the 2000-2001 phone directory, set for release in October.

To update a personal record, fax the form available on page 2 of the current directory, or fill out the online form at http://cr.ucdavis.edu/forms/dirupdate.cfm.

Students should submit updates to the Office of the Registrar, while Medical Center faculty and staff should submit updates to the UCDMC Telecommunications Office.

Windows 2000 and “Me”

Win2K Recommendations and Seminars

BY MARY SUE HEDRICK

The Windows 2000 Project Team, comprised of representatives from IT and the campus technical community, is developing a set of recommendations regarding Windows 2000 migration on campus. (See http://win2k.ucdavis.edu for the latest information.)

These recommendations are a result of a five-month analysis of the impact of deploying Windows 2000 in campus departments. The analysis has resulted in specific recommendations for both current and future adopters about practices necessary to ensure compatibility with campus systems and long-term benefit to the campus as a whole.

The project team recommends waiting to migrate servers from Windows NT to Windows 2000 until the impacts of migration are fully tested and understood. The desktop version of Windows 2000, Windows 2000 Professional, is compliant with UC Davis administrative systems and, therefore, can be installed on Windows PC desktops. To ensure success, follow the installation instructions posted at http://win2k.ucdavis.edu/win2kforwin98.html. The full set of recommendations will be available at http://win2k.ucdavis.edu in mid-June.


Participants were given a project management overview for migrating to Windows 2000. In addition, IT will be hosting a presentation for users and departmental business managers on Monday, June 19. If you are interested in attending, check out the Windows 2000 Web site (http://win2k.ucdavis.edu) for the time, location, and registration information.

Microsoft will also host an on-site UC Davis-specific technical seminar from Wednesday, June 21 through Friday, June 23 for the campus technical community. Seating is limited for this seminar, so please contact Tacy Porter (tmpporter@ucdavis.edu) to request a seat.

Finally, IT is developing courses for Windows 2000 users. These courses should be available in the fall.

What about “Me”?

Windows Millennium Release Postponed

BY JEFF VAN DE POL

With the release of the business-focused Windows 2000 operating system in February, Microsoft promised a new Windows operating system aimed at home computer users—Windows “Me” (short for Millennium Edition)—originally slated for release in May 2000.

However, a recent detailed search of Microsoft’s Web site turned up not a single mention of Windows Me, and developers and industry analysts are now pointing to fall 2000 as the earliest possible release date for the new software.

For the complete text of this article, visit our Web site at http://it.ucdavis.edu/it.times/summer2000/winme.html.
Student Computer Ownership:
A New Statement of Expectation

By Donna Justice

By now, every college student in America knows that computers are a fact of life. In just a few short years, their use has evolved far beyond word processing and spreadsheet creation. For instance, virtually every course now requires Internet access, with email and the Web playing a large role in student-faculty communications and academic research.

In recognition of the increasingly important role of computers in instruction, UC Davis recently adopted a statement of expectation for student computer ownership, effective Fall 2001.

The statement of expectation, proposed and developed by the Academic Computing Coordinating Council (ACCC), with input from the Academic Senate, states that beginning in Fall 2001 “every entering undergraduate student will be expected to own a computer that meets certain minimum performance standards and that can connect effectively to the Internet.” The full statement, which will be printed in the 2000-2002 General Catalog, is available at http://ac4.ucdavis.edu.

No specific hardware or software will be required, but the campus Recommended Solutions for Student Computer Purchases (http://it.ucdavis.edu/Solutions/studpcp.html) will be updated to reflect a minimum set of functional requirements student computers must meet to be used effectively at UC Davis. Specific majors may stipulate performance expectations greater than the campus minimum standards.

“Student ownership of computers is essential for two main reasons,” says Harry Mathews, Chair of the ACCC and Professor, Biochemistry. “First, computer ownership and ‘literacy’ gives each student access to the information and communication opportunities that are becoming essential both to being a responsible and informed citizen and to performing well in a career. Second, computer ownership levels the playing field for all students and allows instructors to choose the best medium for delivering course materials, secure in the knowledge that materials supplied or assignments required online are accessible to all our students.”

Though students are not being asked to meet this expectation until Fall 2001, John Bruno, Vice Provost—Information and Educational Technology, in collaboration with Janet Hamilton, Vice Chancellor—Administration, and Carol Wall, Vice Chancellor—Student Affairs, will begin developing communications and technical support plans this summer, beginning with presentations at Summer Advising for entering students.

Correction

In the April/May issue of the IT Times, Kathy Medina was incorrectly referred to as a Professor of History. Medina is the Director of the Area 3 History and Cultures project, housed in the History Department at UC Davis.