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Scanning Services Update

Scoring “bubble” sheet exams, scanning faculty course evaluations, and generating multiple evaluation reports has become a new, substantial function of the IT Faculty Development Center. Lisa Henderson, Administrative Assistant, provides test and evaluation scanning services for these forms. She’s one of IT’s newest employees. A new home owner, she lives in Bradley with her husband, her father, four dogs, two snakes, and a turtle.

Tell me a little about your background, Lisa. Well, I’ve worked in the administrative support field for about twenty years in Michigan, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and now Maine. I’m also a student at UM, working on a bachelor’s of history. One of the things I’m most

proud of is being invited to join Phi Alpha Theta, the International History Society, and I’ll be inducted on April 28, 2008.



Seems like this office used to be filled with boxes, what’s happened? You are right. All of the Fall 2007 faculty evaluations were waiting for me. I started work on January 28 and, in February, I processed 58,000 forms and more than 1,000 reports to eliminate the backlog.

We also made some major changes on how we scan and

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A message from the director:

IT has started several initiatives to improve technology on campus during the 2008 summer months. Some of the projects described here will improve the reliability of equipment or add new features for classroom use. Other projects are intended to reduce costs to the University. All are intended to enhance UMaine’s technology use.

John Gregory

DPC 100 Upgrade

The lecture hall in room 100, Donald P. Corbett has more technology in it than any other classroom on campus. It seats 350 and is used nearly every hour of the day. However, the original design is 14 years old. While the computers and video projectors have been replaced on a regular basis; it is now time to refresh the rest

of the technology in the room. The upgrade will replace the console, cabling, control panel, video source equipment, and audio system. IT will be working on the project over the summer and plans to have DPC 100 refurbished for the fall semester.

Raising a Ruckus

The University of Maine System has signed an agreement with Ruckus to provide a free, ad-supported music download service for students. Putting a world of music at students' fingertips, Ruckus provides unlimited download access to a library of more than three million high-fidelity songs (from both major and independent labels), with new music being added every week. All downloads are 100% legal, virus and spyware free, fast, and reliable.

Students can build a profile, create and share play lists with friends, review and comment on music,

find out what's hot on campuses across the country, and check out exclusive artist and record label spotlights, interviews, and photos.

IT will be installing the Ruckus server over the summer, and it will be available to all students at the start of the fall semester.

...a library of more than three million high-fidelity songs (from both major and independent labels), with new music being added every week.

FDC 2008 Stipends Awarded

Each year the Faculty Development Center directs the distribution of twelve to fifteen stipends, ranging from \$1000-\$1250, to faculty who are looking to integrate both new and existing technologies into their classrooms. The stipends are designed to compensate the instructors for the money, time, and energy it takes to learn and to set up the new technology, as well as equipment and software; and the recipients are selected by the proposed impact it will have on their classes and their students.

Twelve proposals were selected from this year's field.

Jen Tyne (Mathematics) will, using a tablet PC and video content, multiply the amount of information she is able to give the students in MAT 122, by streaming these videos through her class website; a high student count and short class sessions severely limit her ability to cover everything she would like in the depth her students need.



Christopher Gerbi (Earth Sciences) will be using short video sessions from his field work to give students access to geological formations and sites that they would otherwise not be able to see.

Using 3D images combined with embedded audio, video, and textual resources to create "Ethno-Pods" (anthropological seeds from various locations and cultures) **Constanza Ocampo-Raeder (Anthropology)** will provide her students more visceral and complete access to the cultures they study.

Owen Smith (New Media/ Art) will be creating the digital resources necessary for the new MFA in Intermedia. With the help of his graduate students, they will set up a resource blog and digitize media for course content, as well as create an online gallery for the display of student work.

Gisela Hoecherl-Alden (Modern Languages) will

Scanning Services, Continued

process forms. The University used to create reports utilizing main frame software. It was an extremely time-consuming process that required a lot of manual work in order to create a simple statistical report, and each exam could have as many as seven different reports. A team at the Faculty Development Center, with James Daniels as programmer, created an in-house software that simplified the operation tremendously and generates all of the possible reports automatically. Earlier most of the reports had to be printed on a wide, perforated paper using wide printers; the process was not only time-consuming, it was costly and bulky. Now, we are nearly paperless; I simply email exam and evaluation reports as attachments. Faculty evaluation reports arrive in PDF format, and exam results are generated in Excel for easy data manipulation and sorting.

Plus, we provide a link to a video tutorial to help instructors evaluate the reported results of the exam or evaluation. Some of the information helps evaluate the exam itself. For instance, knowing that a third of the top-scoring students chose the wrong answer on a particular question might indicate a question may need to be rewritten. We provide a bell curve of where scores fell, which can be helpful in evaluating the overall difficulty of an exam. We can also sort reports by student name, by different student codes, by score, and so on.

We can also score exams where there is more than one correct answer for a question. For instance, the state board for nursing has questions with more than one correct answer and our School of Nursing wants students to have experience with these kinds of exams.

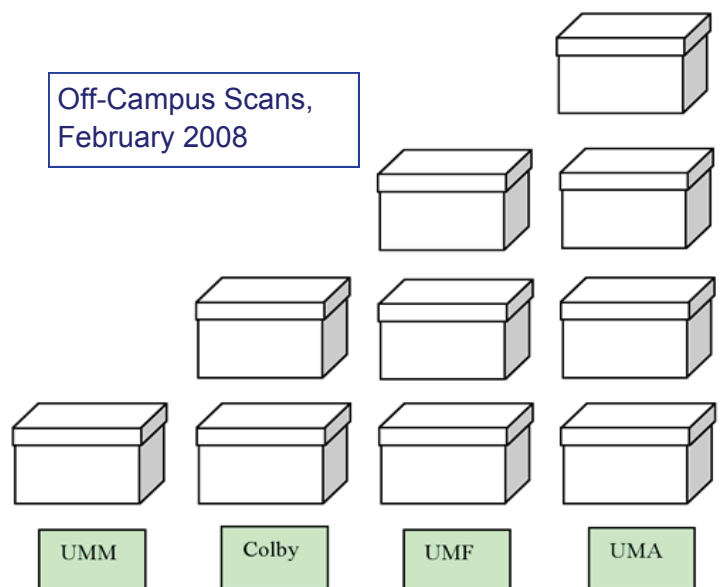
You provide services to other than this campus, don't you? Yes, we scan and provide reports for faculty course evaluations to various University of Maine campuses (Farmington, Machias, Augusta, and Uni-

versity College, Bangor) and some other institutions like Husson, Colby College, and Eastern Maine Community College. There is a service charge for other campuses and institutions.

Do people seem pleased with the changes and new reports you provide? Every one is so nice and they seem to be quite happy with the faster turn-around and the reports we provide. Sometimes, faculty come in and sort of apologize for bringing in forms. I say "Come on in. I love the work. Bring it on." My job is to provide a service and I'm happy to do it.

So you don't mind the workload? Not a bit. We do have a rule that we process the exams before evaluations. You know what my biggest problem is: students who don't fill in the bubble letters for their name!

For an idea of how much Lisa processes in a month, think of how many bubble forms would fit into one of those paper case boxes. Next, imagine scanning and running reports for just the off-campus institutions, they'd look something like this:



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2008 Stipends, Continued

be using a Wacom tablet and access to digital notes to better teach her intermediate and advanced students to read, write, speak, and hear German in increasingly complex situations.

Steve Sader (Forest Resources) will make use of the scheduled tests on WebCT to “pre-quiz” his forestry students, driving better retention rates for information through repetition of the critical thinking needed in the course.

Edward Brazee (Education) will use a microphone and video camera to give his graduate level education students chances to video-conference with top experts in the field.

Karen Linehan (Art) will acquire the technology and the training necessary to work with the increasing digitization of visual resources for her Art History courses.

Owen Logue (Education) will be widening his students’ access to relevant information through the use of online content and video conferencing with professionals, as well as online class discussions.

Ngo-Vinh Long (History) will be using his stipend to help with some of the costs of his massive undertaking in filming a documentary about Vietnamese women, who were involved with the revolutionary and social movements in Vietnam since 1945. He’ll record interviews and process video to capture their stories for posterity and give his student unrivalled access to their personal contributions to history.

Tina Passman and Valerie Smith (Modern Languages) will be using Camtasia and Mindmapping software to research the impact of the implementation of new technologies into their online courses.

Regina Murphy (Nursing) will be acquiring the resources she needs to develop NUR 303 into an online course offering, widening the number of students (traditional and non-traditional) who have access to it.

The results of the proposals will be showcased at the Annual Faculty Technology Fair in October, 2008. The recipients will share their projects and results with colleagues, allowing their discoveries to reach an even wider number of students. We thank everyone for their submissions.

Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP)



Most people don’t care a great deal how their phone works, as long as it does. IT/Telecommunications does care how it works and what it costs to operate efficiently. To that end, IT is developing a long-range plan for introducing VoIP on campus. VoIP allows telephones to use the same network infrastructure as data. In addition to running one network

structure instead of two, the fiber optic data cable backbone is smaller than the traditional copper phone cables. This makes it easier to lay and to maintain, factors that reduce the cost of installing phone service to new or renovated buildings. IT is currently considering two alternatives for VoIP and expects to select a final standard by this summer.

Staying connected with you.