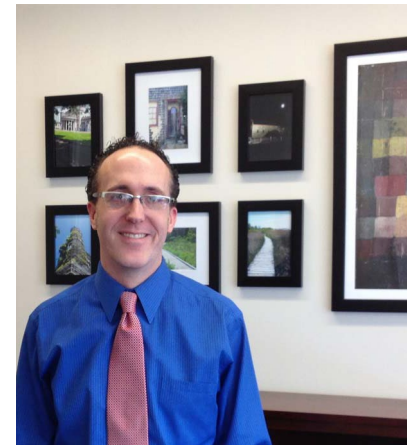# Faculty Technology Newsletter
Fall, 2012

A note from the new editor:

As the newest member of the Faculty Microcomputer Resource Center (FMRC) staff, I am happy to take on editorial responsibility for this newsletter from Richard Jenson, who retired this past spring. In each newsletter, I plan to summarize news of interest to faculty from a variety of sources, including Instructional Design and eTeaching Services (IDeS), Information Technology Services (ITS), and faculty members. Please send me your comments, suggestions and technology news!

Clare O'Connor, Biology Dept. (clare.oconnor@bc.edu)

Scott Cann, inaugural Director of Technology Support Services

Welcome Scott Cann, Director of Support Services for ITS. Scott oversees a variety of services, including Research Services, the Help Desk, CTRC, TCs, BCCR and Media Technology Services. Scott comes to BC with extensive experience in technology help services at both MIT-Lincoln Laboratories and Northeastern University. Scott invites faculty to contact him directly, whether they simply need assistance or have a strategic issue to discuss. His vision is to develop a "concierge" style of technology service, where ITS staff work with a faculty member to coordinate the necessary resources for both immediate support and project work needs across organizational lines, creating a seamless service experience. Get in touch with Scott!

Bye, bye Blackboard - new learning management system coming soon

The Instructional Design and eTeaching Services (IDeS) and Information Technology Services (ITS) staff have been working hard to prepare the campus for a learning management system (LMS) that will replace Blackboard Vista. In the spring semester, faculty members will have an opportunity to see potential replacements and to provide feedback for the final selection. Faculty input is an important element of the review process. If you are interested in participating in the LMS evaluation, please contact Elizabeth Clark at clarkeq@bc.edu.

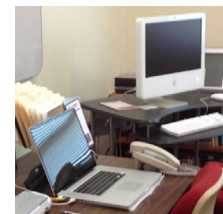### Network provides secure Internet access for visiting faculty

Eduroam provides secure Internet access to academics visiting other Internet2 universities within the Eduroam network. An edu-roamer's credentials are authenticated through their home institutions, negating the need for obtaining guest credentials while traveling. The eduroam network includes hundreds of academic institutions in Europe and ~80 universities in the U.S., including BC. At BC, eduroam is currently available only at O'Neill library and the law library, but access will be extended to additional academic buildings and common areas across campus. Faculty interested in using eduroam should contact the Help Desk. For addtional information, see the Eduroam web pages (eduroam.org).

Email quotas on the horizon

Make a New Year's resolution to clean up your email box! The volume of stored faculty and staff email has been increasing at ~55 Gbytes per week. Storing these large amounts of data is expensive, so faculty and staff email boxes will be given quotas in 2013. The goal of the new quota system is to maintain a maximum size of 2 Gbytes. Faculty whose mailboxes contain less than 1.4 Gbytes of data will be given the new 2 Gbyte quota. To ease the transition, faculty members with larger mailboxes will receive a quota approx. ~40% higher than their current size. (Contact your TC if you need a larger quota.) ITS recommends that everyone routinely deletes unnecessary files, *especially* those with large attachments. An added perk of a streamlined mailbox is that your mail program will work faster. More details from ITS in early 2013.

Connect with the FMRC, a faculty service provided by the Provost's office

The Faculty Microcomputer Resource Center (FMRC) in Carney 403 provides a place where faculty can meet to discuss academic technology solutions and to work with equipment and programs that may not be available in their home departments. Three faculty moderators, Michael Connolly, Kit Baum, and Clare O'Connor, are happy to help faculty with their projects. Contact the moderators by email to set up an appointment or drop by the FMRC during the regularly staffed hours posted on the website (fmwww.bc.edu/FMRC). Faculty can also obtain 24/7 card access to the FMRC by meeting with one of the moderators at the FMRC.
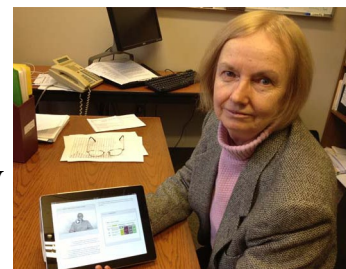
iBooks Author pilot helps faculty to prepare electronic books with rich media content

We are all aware of the rapid changes in book publishing as electronic books occupy an increasing share of the marketplace. Electronic books can be much more than an electronic copy of a print book, because of the potential for incorporating media, thereby providing a more immersive experience for the reader. Last summer, ATAB (Academic Technology Advisory Board) sponsored a project that supported a small group of faculty interested in writing electronic books for the iPad, using Apple's iBooks Author program. Two of the projects are highlighted here.

Evan Kantrowitz (Chemistry) is preparing a monograph on aspartate transcarbamoylase (ATCase), a key regulatory enzyme that is the focus of Evan's research. Evan is particularly interested in the various forms that the enzyme assumes in the presence of different metabolites. The iBooks Author program allowed him to incorporate sophisticated 3-dimensional molecular visualization into the book, as well as animated Keynote files that teach students the basics of enzyme function. Evan plans to make his book freely available through the iTunes Store.

Mary Cronin (CSOM) has developed an iBook that is adding new dimensions to her E-Commerce class. Mary's book contains a series of case studies about innovative companies in the Boston area. The iBook format allowed Mary to integrate original video interviews with the entrepreneurs, together with text, hyperlinks, and rich imagery. Mary's students particularly value the interactivity of the iBook format. With help from IDeS staff member Bryan Blakeley, she also converted the book to an interactive pdf that can be read on multiple platforms.