

Faculty Technology Newsletter

Fall, 2014



A time of transitions! This past summer will be remembered for the migrations of email to Google Apps and course management functions to the Canvas learning management system. In September, the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) opened in O'Neill 250. Read more below about the CTE, its new director, as well as reorganizations in ITS that offer new services to the University community.

This newsletter is a service of the FMRC, intended to communicate technology news to the faculty community. Please send me your technology news! - Clare O'Connor, Biology Dept. (clare.oconnor@bc.edu)

Fall ATIG grant proposal deadline is October 27th.

The current round of competition for Academic Technology Innovation Grants (ATIG) is underway. The Academic Technology Advisory Board (ATAB) expects to award multiple grants, ranging in size from \$6000 at \$20,000. Faculty are particularly encouraged to work together on grants that can transform instruction in a department. For additional information on ATIGs and smaller ETG grants, see: <http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/offices/atab/grant.html>.

Faculty Micro Resource Center (FMRC) moves to a new home in the CTE

The FMRC (O'Neill 250H/I) provides a space for faculty to meet and to experiment with equipment and programs that could enhance their teaching or research. The FMRC maintains high-end Macintosh workstations, mobile devices and peripherals for editing video and musical inputs. A 3-D printer and scanner are also available for faculty use. The three FMRC moderators welcome opportunities to meet with faculty to discuss their technology needs either in staffed FMRC hours or by arrangement. Faculty are also welcome to use the equipment any time that the CTE is open (8-6, M-F).



Staffed hours for the FMRC during the fall 2014 semester are:

Monday: 1:30-2:30 Kit Baum (Economics)
3:30-4:30 Michael Connolly (Slavic and Eastern Languages)
Tuesday: 9:30-10:30 Clare O'Connor (Biology)
Wednesday 10:30-11:30 Kit Baum
3:30-4:40 Michael Connolly
Friday 10:30-11:30 Clare O'Connor

Welcome Dr. John Rakestraw Inaugural Director of the Center for Teaching Excellence

Dr. John Rakestraw brings a wealth of experience in college teaching, faculty development and academic technology to his new leadership position in the CTE. John began his career as an Assistant/Associate Professor at Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia. John was an early user of academic technology at Wesleyan, bringing some of the first PCs to campus. While at Wesleyan, John developed an active interest in finding ways to improve teaching. Moving on to Vanderbilt in 1997, John pursued those interests as the Assistant Director for Technology at Vanderbilt's Center for Teaching. For the past 10 years, John served as a Director of the Georgetown University Center for New Designs in Learning and Scholarship (CNDLS). While maintaining his administrative responsibilities at CNDLS, John was also active in the classroom, teaching courses in the Georgetown Theology Department.



John encourages BC faculty to “think deeply about their teaching.” He is happy to meet with faculty to discuss strategies that will increase the effectiveness of their teaching.

CTE brings together pedagogical and technological resources

The CTE (O'Neill 250) was designed with collaboration in mind. The CTE is the new home of the Instructional Design and eTeaching Services (IDeS) as well as the professional development activities led by Dr. Suzanne Barrett. The CTE offers multiple venues for faculty and staff to meet, including digitally-equipped conference rooms, the FMRC, and a technology lab. Expect to hear more soon about CTE programming. Faculty have the opportunity to tour the CTE from 3-5 P.M. on October 16th.



ITS Support Services introduces new leadership roles

New leadership positions in ITS support its continuing efforts to partner with faculty in identifying and implementing technological solutions for research and teaching.

In her new role as Director of Computing Support and Service Management, Mary Durr oversees the Help Desk and develops the ITS service management strategy. Mary also works with the library on new initiatives to support student learning. Most recently, the library and ITS introduced the Digital Studio, which provides students with resources similar to those offered to faculty through the FMRC. Looking forward, the library-ITS partners are developing a learning commons for students.



Michael Gallagher, Director of Technology Consultation and Implementation, is a recent arrival at Boston College from MIT Lincoln Labs. Mike oversees the TC organization, the BCCR computer replacement program and emerging technology. Mike brings extensive technical experience with him to his new role. Both Mary and Mike work for Scott Cann, Technology Director for Support Services, and they are all happy to meet with faculty to discuss computer technologies that can advance their research and teaching goals.

Thanks to Michael Connolly, Kit Baum, John Rakestraw, Cristina Joy, Scott Cann and Mary Durr for supplying information and commentary for this newsletter. - C.O.