

Faculty Technology Newsletter

February, 2015



Notwithstanding the snow, the semester progresses. In this issue, you will find information about the current round of Academic Technology Innovation Grants, exciting digital resources available for faculty and students in the O'Neill digital studio, and cybersecurity measures in place at Boston College. As always, send me your technology news! - *Clare O'Connor*, Biology Dept. (clare.oconnor@bc.edu)

Deadline for spring ATIG proposals is March 30th

The Academic Technology Advisory Board (ATAB) announces its spring call for Academic Technology Innovation Grants (ATIGs). ATIGs are intended to bring new instructional and research technologies to BC. ATAB expects to award multiple grants, with a maximum award of \$60,000. ATIG projects vary widely in size and scope. The Committee particularly welcomes departmental or interdepartmental proposals for technology that will enhance instruction.

In addition to ATIG proposals, ATAB also invites faculty to submit a proposal to develop a MediaKron (MK) project and to join a cohort of faculty developing similar projects. MK is a web-based toolkit for digital thinking and storytelling developed at Boston College. Participating faculty will receive a \$5,000 stipend, and additional funds will be available to the cohort to support project materials and resources as needed. Examples of previous MK projects can be found at mediakron.org. If you are interested in developing a MediaKron project, please contact the ATAB Coordinator, Stacia Pathiakis, at atab@bc.edu.

The start date of ATIG grants is June 1, 2015. For additional information on ATIGs and smaller ETG grants, see: <http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/offices/atab/grant.html>.

The Digital Studio (O'Neill 205)

Electronic resources for students and faculty

L to R: Gail White, Patrick Goncalves,
Shanna Gilberg, Estelle Pope



Recognizing the continuing need for electronic resources after the closing of the CTRC, the Library and Information Technology Services collaborated on the design and implementation of a new digital studio in O'Neill Library. The digital studio offers students, faculty and staff access to powerful resources for data analysis and multimedia projects. The studio contains multiple PC and Mac workstations, printers, scanners and multimedia equipment. A 3-D printer is also available during staffed hours. The workstations have Adobe Creative Cloud software as well as software for audio and video editing, geographic mapping, music composition, and statistical analysis. For more information about available software and hardware, see: <http://libguides.bc.edu/digital-studio/home>.

The studio is open 24/7, with the exception of Friday and Saturday nights, and is staffed M-F 10-7. The studio staff, pictured above, are happy to meet with faculty and discuss their digital projects. The studio space is designed for collaborative projects, and the studio also offers classes and tutorials. Faculty are welcome to check out cameras and iPads and to reserve the faculty preview room, which is equipped with an HDMI flat screen monitor and projection capabilities.



Altiris - keeping up with the updates

Have you noticed a new icon on your computer's toolbar? That you're being asked less frequently to install software updates? This is because the Symantec Management Platform, Altiris, is now installed on most BC-owned computers. Altiris allows ITS to proactively patch software vulnerabilities and provide updates in a quick and unobtrusive manner. Altiris also allows ITS to monitor its computer and software inventory without burdening academic departments with collecting this information. The data supplied by Altiris is important for compliance with software licensing and regulatory agencies. The data also helps ITS to better understand our overall security vulnerability. ITS tests the Altiris software on an ongoing basis to ensure it does not interfere with the regular use of the computer. For more information, contact Scott Cann (scott.cann@bc.edu), Technology Director of ITS Support Services.

Experiment with new pedagogy in the CTE Innovation Lab

The Center for Teaching Excellence's Innovation Lab is a flexible space designed for faculty to experiment with new pedagogy and emerging technologies in a flexible classroom setting. Furniture and equipment in the room are all on wheels, allowing faculty to easily configure the classroom environment. Multiple outlets and white boards make it easy for students to use their computers and to collaborate. The Innovation Lab is equipped with high-end technologies, including a Promethian Smart Board, the inFocus Mondo Pad (a large screen multi-touch PC), lecture capture, Apple TV and Barco wireless projection. Shown here, Laura Foote is teaching CSOM students in her course on Social Engineering and Entrepreneurship. Students are working in groups on their social enterprise business plans, while Laura is circulating through the room and providing feedback.



In addition to serving as the venue for experimental classes, workshops and seminars, the lab is also used for the CTE's ongoing research into and development of new instructional tools and techniques. To learn more about the lab or to request a booking, please contact cte@bc.edu.

Technology tidbits

- **Enhanced cybersecurity awareness program in the design phase** - You may be surprised to hear that BC firewalls block over **30 MILLION** unwanted connections per day! In response to this threat, ITS is working with the academic community to develop an enhanced Security Awareness program. As part of the design process, ITS will be inviting over 100 faculty and staff to a series of workshops in March. Expect to hear more soon.
- **MyFiles to be replaced** - ITS is evaluating replacements for our existing file sharing site. One possible solution is Cloudlock for Google Apps, a security platform that encrypts files in the Google cloud.
- **Eagle VPN has been reconfigured to a full tunnel VPN** -Eagle VPN provides a secure way to connect a remote computer to the BC network. Eagle VPN was originally configured to encrypt traffic to BC sites, but not to sites outside of the BC network. Due to access issues that faculty encountered in countries with extensive firewalls, however, the VPN was reconfigured to encrypt all traffic to and from the remote computer. Because encryption slows down transmission, faculty are encouraged to use the VPN only in situations where security is suspect.

Thanks to Kit Baum, Scott Cann, Michael Connolly, Cristina Joy, Gabriel LaRusso, Laura Foote, Stacia Pathiakis, Shanna Gilberg, Este Pope and Patrick Goncalves for supplying information and commentary for this newsletter. - C.O.