Research & Teaching Tools, August 2007

Homewood Faculty eNews digests summarize some of the resources available to Homewood faculty from the Center for Educational Resources, The Sheridan Libraries, and IT@JH

I   MyJohnsHopkins to replace JHED

Read up on the new changes in store for the University's online information service.

II   Technology Classroom Updates

With campus construction, more technologically equipped classrooms are on the way.

III   Change Is in the Air: Two New Wireless Networks Installed

New wireless networks offer easier access and greater security.

IV   Lecture Podcasting Tool Expands

Find out how to podcast your lectures - effortlessly!

V   TA Training Program

The Homewood Campus offers an orientation day for incoming graduate instructors.

VI   This Year's Bits and Bytes Series

The CER offers weekly workshops, covering a variety of useful topics.

VII   Revamp Your Lessons with Special Collections

Give your students an interactive lesson in your discipline's history through Special Collections.

VIII   Take the Homewood Technology Survey

Make your voice heard - another chance to register your priorities on the (updated) 2007 Faculty Technology Survey!

I   MyJohnsHopkins to replace JHED

The JHED web site is moving into the myJohnsHopkins portal (http://my.johnshopkins.edu | http://my.jhu.edu | http://my.jhmi.edu). Beginning September 27, the current JHED Web site will retire, and all tasks formerly performed by JHED will be accessible only from within the myJohnsHopkins portal.

The myJohnsHopkins portal is a new Web site designed to simplify and centralize access to online services and content available at Johns Hopkins. The site delivers targeted announcements, events information, and tools to individual Hopkins users based on their institutional and divisional affiliations.

The myJohnsHopkins portal will provide a robust platform for future improvements to all JHED functions. For example, the Single-Sign-On (SSO) system used on myJohnsHopkins will allow users to log in once and access a variety of resources that formerly would have required individual authentication.

Despite the move, the JHED system will still be accessible under the "myJHED" tab within the myJohnsHopkins portal. After you successfully log into the Johns Hopkins Portal and open the "myJHED" tab, you will be able to access all current JHED features including the "search" function on the original JHED Web site. This incorporation of the JHED system within the new portal will ease the administrative burden of managing both systems.

Currently, there is a small set of resources for faculty members on the myJohnsHopkins portal. Over the next few months, useful tools, information, and resources will be added.

II Technology Classroom Updates

Several technology updates to general pool technology classrooms have been made.

A new technology classroom has been created in Shriver Hall room 104. This classroom replaces a Gilman Hall classroom space that has been taken off-line as part of the upcoming Gilman Hall building restoration. More technology-enhanced classrooms will be provided in Dunning Hall, tentatively planned for the spring semester, as additional Gilman Hall General Pool classrooms are taken off-line. When that process is complete, all general pool classrooms on the Homewood Campus will have at least a Level 1 technology configuration (projector, VCR & DVD Player, laptop connection, network access, Extron Control System).
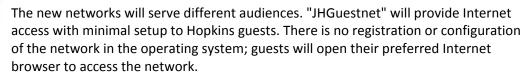
A new technology classroom search tool is now available at http://www.jhu.edu/classrooms/.

The tool provides a list of general pool classrooms that contain the equipment and features selected by the user. Users can click each classroom for a photo of the classroom and detailed technical capabilities. The Technology Classroom Web site has also been updated with new tutorial videos that provide brief instructions on how to use both the Crestron and Extron AV control systems that are in use in the Homewood classrooms.

III   Change is in the Air: Two New Wireless Networks Installed

Over the summer and throughout the early fall, Johns Hopkins Information Technology will be upgrading the campus wireless networks. The two new network names, "hopkins" and "JHGuestnet," will appear on your wireless device as you travel around the Hopkins Homewood campus. The "standard" and "enhanced" networks will be retired as the new networks are implemented throughout the campus.

The new networks will serve different audiences. "JHGuestnet" will provide Internet access with minimal setup to Hopkins guests. There is no registration or configuration of the network in the operating system; guests will open their preferred Internet browser to access the network.

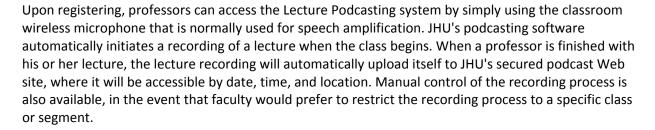The faster and more secure "hopkins" network will cater to Hopkins staff, faculty, students and anyone with a JHED ID. The "hopkins" network uses powerful Advanced Encryption Standard encryption coupled with Wi-Fi Protected Access, which is commonly used to secure and ensure a safe wireless session. The "hopkins" network provides a high speed data link to all of the resources on the network. As a result of these wireless networks upgrades, WEP key installations will become obsolete.

The rollout of these new networks has begun and coverage areas already include Garland, Olin, Clark, Hodson, Mattin Center, Levering Hall, and Bloomberg. Supported operating systems are Windows XP Service Pack 2, Windows Vista, and MAC OSX 10.4. Please refer to http://it.jhu.edu/networking/wireless for step by step configuration instructions and updates on additional areas as they become available.

IV   Lecture Podcasting Tool Expands

This fall, Johns Hopkins is expanding the availability and security of the Lecture Podcasting educational tool. Lecture Podcasting allows a professor to record and distribute his or her lectures via JHU's secured Internet network.

New lecture podcasting capabilities have been installed in Hodson, Maryland, Mergenthaler, Mudd and Remsen halls. The IT@JH team has also implemented IP-based security for the podcasting Web site at http://podcasting.jhu.edu, so that only computers located on Hopkins campuses or those secured by the JHU remote access VPN connection can access the podcasts.

Upon registering, professors can access the Lecture Podcasting system by simply using the classroom wireless microphone that is normally used for speech amplification. JHU's podcasting software automatically initiates a recording of a lecture when the class begins. When a professor is finished with his or her lecture, the lecture recording will automatically upload itself to JHU's secured podcast Web site, where it will be accessible by date, time, and location. Manual control of the recording process is also available, in the event that faculty would prefer to restrict the recording process to a specific class or segment.

If you are teaching in one of the lecture podcast classrooms this fall and would like your lectures to be automatically podcasted, please e-mail Nestor Torres at nestor@jhu.edu with the course number of

your class and the date of your first class meeting. From that point on, each class will be automatically recorded and posted to the podcast Web site for the duration of the semester.

If you have any questions regarding the podcast system contact Nestor Torres by e-mail or call him directly at 410-516-3459.

V TA Training Program

The TA Training Program is a one-day orientation on a variety of instructional topics for graduate students from all academic disciplines. The program directs first-time TAs to resources that can enhance their teaching and introduces them to the challenges of classroom instruction. Workshops are conducted by faculty members, CER staff, and experienced TAs who cover topics such as time management, course support, leading discussions and labs, meeting common challenges, assisting struggling students and handling instances of academic dishonesty. Starting in spring 2008, the university will offer graduate students a mini-teaching course for academic credit. The course will provide preparation for teaching at the university level and include topics such as syllabus and assignment design, teaching philosophies, effective lesson planning, introduction to varied teaching and learning styles, planning effective lectures, managing classroom dynamics and grading and teaching with technology (in partnership with the CER). For more information contact Richard Shingles at shingles@jhu.edu.

VI This Year's Bits and Bytes Series

The Center for Education Resources at Johns Hopkins presents a weekly series entitled Bits and Bytes to provide useful technological information to faculty and instructors. Each session is led by a member of the JHU community who offers an interactive presentation on one of several practical topics, including Photoshop, Interactive Maps, Digital Cameras, PowerPoint and Cool Google Tools. At a Bits and Bytes session, you can participate in in-depth lessons on enhancing your digital pictures, understanding high-definition technology, and using free library resources to help organize your courses or enhance your research. After each presentation, a question and answer period will allow you to clarify any remaining issues about the topic.

These informal sessions are held in either the Garrett Room or the Hamburger Room of the MSE Library. For more information, contact Cheryl Wagner at cwagner@jhu.edu or visit www.cer.jhu.edu for a complete list of workshop details.

VII Revamp Your Lessons with Special Collections

In an increasingly digital age, many Hopkins faculty members are turning to Special Collections to provide exciting depth and tangible historical dimensions to their course content. In recent semesters, literature students have explored illustrated editions of Dante and Shakespeare, civil engineers have

investigated the history of iron truss bridge structures and history students have learned how to interpret colonial American handwriting.

Special Collections enable professors to enhance classroom instruction by incorporating concrete historical aspects of most disciplines. The staff is eager to work with instructors to identify and use materials appropriate for their teaching. In addition to providing guidance in locating Special Collections materials in the online catalog and uncataloged backlogs, Special Collections staff can provide subject and resource guides to the collections, many of which have not yet been published. Sessions on the history of the book, book production, descriptive and analytical bibliography, the tools and techniques of book, manuscript and archival research, and related topics are also offered to supplement subject-based class visits.

Seminar space can be booked in three locations: Milton S. Eisenhower Library, George Peabody Library and the John Work Garrett Library at Evergreen House. To do so, contact Curator of Rare Books John Buchtel at (410) 516-8662 or jbuchtel@jhu.edu, or Curator of Manuscripts Margaret Burri at (410) 516-5492 or mburri@jhu.edu.

For more information, visit our Teaching Opportunities page: http://www.library.jhu.edu/collections/specialcollections/usingspecol/teaching.html.

VIII   Take the Homewood Technology Survey

The Johns Hopkins Homewood Campus technology surveys for faculty and students are conducted biennially to stay abreast of current and emerging information and instructional technology-related needs. Representatives from the Center for Educational Resources, Student Technology Services, IT@JHU, MSEL Systems Group, and the Digital Media Center meet regularly to analyze questions and make suggestions for collecting data.

This year's Faculty survey was launched in early May; it encountered unanticipated technical difficulties that interfered with completing some of the questions. The problems are fully resolved now, and faculty are requested to take a few minutes to complete the 2007 faculty survey online at the following Web address: http://survey.jhu.edu/index.php?sid=61246

Your opinions will help technical staff plan for and implement technologies that address faculty IT research and instruction that would require additional technical support in the event of an extended campus closing (e.g., major weather-related closing or other unusual circumstance).

If you have suggestions for improving the faculty section or questions about the myJohnsHopkins portal, please contact Theron Feist at tfeist@jhu.edu.