Technology Fee RFP

The UCF Technology Fee Committee is pleased to announce availability of technology fee guidelines and proposal forms for FY 2010-11. These materials are available online at http://www.itr.ucf.edu/techfee. The deadline for submitting technology fee proposals for FY 2010-11 is 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 15. Questions and completed proposals can be sent to techfee@mail.ucf.edu.

Units considering submitting technology fee proposals for FY 2010-11 are invited to attend a technology fee proposal writing workshop on Wednesday, September 1 from 2-4 p.m. in the Student Union (Cape Florida, 316CD). The workshop will include a review of technology fee guidelines and proposal submission forms, and a question and answer period.

Streaming Video Lecture Capture

UCF is transitioning the infrastructure and management of video-based lecture-capture courses from a college-based model to a central enterprise model. To date, lecture-capture streaming video technology has been used primarily within the colleges of business and engineering and computer science. To accommodate other potential users, room 205 in Classroom Building 1 (CL1) is being equipped to deliver video streaming lecture capture beginning this summer.

Faculty members who wish to teach in an enterprise-supported distributed video course modality (e.g., V, RV) must first complete a faculty development program (IDV6000 — Instructional Delivery of Video). Completion of the program will enable faculty success in these modalities, assist in providing a consistently high-quality experience for students, and ensure UCF meets SACS compliance requirements.

For additional information, contact Thomas Cavanagh in the Center for Distributed Learning at cavanagh@mail.ucf.edu.

Dziuban Gives Keynote Address at University of Helsinki in Finland

Professor Emeritus Chuck Dziuban, director of the Research Initiative for Teaching Effectiveness, delivered the keynote address at the annual meeting of the Finnish Blended Learning Society at the University of Helsinki on March 11. The following day, Chuck conducted a series of workshops for Finnish educators about blended learning and its impact on educational institutions, students and faculty members.

During his time abroad, Dr. Dziuban established working relationships with several universities in Finland concentrating on writing improvement, biodiversity, and teaching calculus online.

WebCT CE4 Termination Date

UCF’s license for WebCT CE4 will expire on May 31, 2010. All faculty members who still have courses in, or think that they might teach content from, WebCT CE4 must migrate that material to Webcourses@UCF immediately.

All migration requests should be sent to the instructional design assistants in the Center for Distributed Learning, at cdlida@mail.ucf.edu, no later than 5:00 p.m. Friday, May 28.
CDL Launches New Website

The Center for Distributed Learning has launched a new Online@UCF website. Designed as a gateway for students, faculty members and others interested in distributed learning at UCF, this new web presence will provide easy access to up-to-date information.

Please visit the new Center for Distributed Learning website at http://online.ucf.edu.

Online@ UCF Support

To better support students and faculty members participating in web-based and mixed-mode courses, the Center for Distributed Learning has reorganized its technical support units into one team, now called Online@UCF Support. Each constituent group (faculty and students) will continue to receive customized support. The new structure will allow CDL to be more efficient and provide improved service. For example, students will now have access to extended support on weekday evenings and weekends, which was not previously available.


Can You Hear Me Now?

Have you ever had to leave your office to find a location with a strong enough signal to make a cell phone call, or glanced at your cell phone while sitting in a meeting and noticed you had only one bar of signal? As cell phones have become ubiquitous, the goal of ensuring adequate cellular signal strength throughout campus has become a high priority for Computer Services & Telecommunications.

UCF Facilities Planning, Telecommunications and outside contractors are working cooperatively to design a campus-wide distributed antenna system (DAS). When it is completed, the DAS will provide consistently strong cellular signals within and between buildings throughout campus.

Phase one of the DAS project was the construction of a 180-foot cell tower north of the football stadium. AT&T Mobility is the first cellular carrier to activate a cell site on the tower, and other carriers are expected to soon follow. Phase two of the DAS project, which involves locating “macrocell” or “microcell” antennas invisibly in strategic campus locations, is expected to be completed during the 2010-11 school year.

The north cell tower will provide the campus with more than improved cellular coverage. CLEAR, a partnership between Clearwire and investors such as Intel, Comcast, Sprint, Google, Time Warner Cable and Bright House Networks plans to activate WiMax 4G service in Orlando in the fall, and has already installed a WiMax antenna on the UCF tower. WiMax is projected to deliver download speeds of three to six megabits per second over a wide geographic area.

CDL’s Level2 Productions Wins Telly Award

The prestigious Telly Awards honor outstanding local, regional, and cable television commercials and programs, as well as video and film productions and work created for the web.

Level2 (the Center for Distributed Learning’s video production unit) was recognized with a 2010 Bronze Telly Award in the Online Course Content (Education) category for the graphically rich course introduction video produced for SYO4400: Medical Sociology, taught by assistant professor Fernando Rivera in the UCF Department of Sociology and Anthropology. Rivera said he was “not terribly surprised” when he heard of the award as he had “witnessed firsthand the quality, dedication and originality of the work produced by Level2 Productions.”

Level2 lead video producer Emely Jimenez, who directed the winning video, said her team was “honored” by the recognition of the Telly, adding, “Level2 loves taking faculty ideas from conception to a successful integration into online courses.” Level2 was recognized with an earlier Telly award in 2006 for Computer Services & Telecommunications’ IT Security video, which is now shown to all new UCF employees during orientation.

The award-winning video can be viewed at http://engage.ucf.edu:28158/ramgen/col/cas/rivera/syo4400/intro.smil.

The Level2 team includes (left to right) Tim Reid, Miles Johnson, Emely Jimenez and Scott Polcyn.
A new look is coming to a familiar place! Scheduled to open in August 2010 — just in time for the fall semester — the Knowledge Commons, to be located on the second floor of the main library, will bring together learning and technology, study and research, academic support, and print and online resources — all in one place for students and faculty.

Construction begins this month and will continue throughout the summer. This new learning space is partially funded by the student technology fee and will feature seating and workstations for 479 individuals, 196 desktop PCs (102 more than before), 116 seats with easy access to power outlets for portable devices, and comfortable and functional seating and study areas.

We hope you enjoy this journey with us as we create a more modern and functional learning environment for students and faculty.

The Knowledge Commons is currently under construction on the main library’s second floor. New seating, workstations, PCs and study areas will be available in August. To make room, library staff has moved nearly 1.05 million volumes. Keep track of progress at http://library.ucf.edu/NewLook.

Penny Beile Receives Distinguished Education and Behavioral Librarian Award

Penny Beile, interim department head for reference services and department head of the Curriculum Materials Center at UCF Libraries, received the 2010 Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Education and Behavioral Sciences Section (EBSS) Distinguished Education and Behavioral Sciences Librarian Award.

This award honors a distinguished academic librarian who has made an outstanding contribution as an education or behavioral sciences librarian through accomplishments and service to the profession.

Beile received a prize of $2,000, as well as a plaque, which will be presented to her June 26 during the 2010 ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.

“And Penny Beile is highly regarded by all of her peers — education faculty and librarians at the University of Central Florida, as well as her colleagues within EBSS, ACRL, ALA and the American Educational Research Association,” says award committee chair Judy Walker, education/curriculum materials librarian at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Beile has been active in EBSS, including serving a term as chair from 2007-08. During her time on the EBSS Executive Committee, Beile was instrumental in establishing the American Psychological Association’s research award for librarians. She has also been a strong advocate for enhancing library research, chairing the first EBSS Research Committee and, with others in the section, encouraged ACRL to reform the association’s Research Committee into a coordinating committee focused on encouraging high-quality research in the field of academic and research librarianship.

In 2008, Beile was part of a team established to review standards and evidence for Teaching Assisting Academy for Career and Technical Education Industry Certification for the Brevard County (FL) Public Schools. She has also served on accreditation review teams for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).
Min Tong Receives Excellence in Librarianship Award

Min Tong, a reference/instruction librarian from the UCF South Lake regional campus library was the recipient of this year’s Excellence in Librarianship Award at Founder’s Day on April 7. UCF sponsors the award to recognize the outstanding contributions and support given to UCF’s faculty and students by its library faculty members.

Tong’s role as academic librarian at the UCF South Lake campus is unique. Because of UCF’s partnership with both Lake Sumter Community College and the Lake County Library System, Tong provides in-person and online reference services to not only faculty and students, but also to the general public.

In Tong’s philosophy of librarianship, she says a good librarian is, first and foremost, a learned person. She sees learning as part of her job as well as her life. A good librarian, however, does not stop at the stage of learning. Her passion also resides in sharing what she knows with her library users to promote learning. And last, but certainly not least, a good librarian serves all users as equal, regardless of their race, gender and social and economic status. She considers the library as a place for all, and it is her obligation to assist all users to the best of her ability.

To quote Min, “I wish that some day I can say to myself (as Hwa-wei Lee, former chief of the Asian division of the Library of Congress, said), ‘I believe I succeeded because in this field, we care about people… We don’t just collect books, we also enrich lives.’”

Libraries Join Center for Research Libraries

The University of Central Florida is a member of the Center for Research Libraries, a partnership of more than 240 university, college and independent research libraries. For 50-plus years, CRL has acquired and preserved newspapers, journals, documents, archives and other traditional and digital resources from a global network of sources and made them available to member institutions and others through interlibrary loan and electronic delivery.

For researchers at member institutions, CRL functions as a branch library of extraordinary resources with user-focused policies and practices, including unlimited access to CRL’s corpus of five million items, project-length loan privileges, third-day delivery on the vast majority of interlibrary loans and a demand purchase program (enables patrons to request purchases up to $2,000 annually in three areas: foreign dissertations, newspapers and archival material).

The center’s resources include:
- 6,500 international newspapers, many dating to the 1700s — the largest collection of circulating newspapers in North America
- 4,500 U.S. newspapers, many dating to the colonial era, including 2,000 ethnic titles
- More than 38,000 foreign journals that are rarely held in U.S. libraries
- More than 800,000 foreign dissertations
- Area studies — major microform and paper collections from Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, Europe, Asia, Southeast Asia and more

Visit http://crl.edu for a complete list.

If you have any questions, please contact Michael Arthur, head of Acquisitions and Collection Services, at marthur@mail.ucf.edu.