2014-15 Technology Fee Awards

The sixth round of Technology Fee proposal reviews was completed in December, with the Technology Fee Committee approving funding for the following projects. We are grateful to the committee members for their time and effort in support of this year’s RFP reviews. For academic year 2014-15:

- 68 proposals were submitted (9 infrastructure, 55 student-facing, 4 faculty-facing), requesting a total of $12,698,378
- 61 proposals were funded (48 student-facing, 4 faculty-facing, 9 infrastructure), with a total value of $9,030,711

For a complete list of 2014-15 and prior year Technology Fee projects funded, please visit http://itr.ucf.edu/TechFee.

For those thinking of submitting a proposal for the 2015-16 award cycle, we will be holding proposal writing workshops in April and August. Specific dates and times will be announced and posted to the Technology Fee website.

Computer Services and Telecommunications (CS&T) will be performing a telecommunications infrastructure upgrade for multiple UCF buildings in the Research Park area, the CFE Arena, and Bright House Networks Stadium area.

This upgrade will include Voice over IP (network-based telephone) services, Voice Gateways for analog lines, and delivery of full-service options to new and existing customers. CS&T will be reaching out to departmental staff and working with them to assure they are made aware of the work being performed in their areas. CS&T has already begun email communications and will continue to inform the UCF community about this project through multiple communications over the next 18 months.

The purpose of this upgrade is to provide improved voice and network services and, replace the legacy Siemens telephone system with modern Cisco phones and improved features.

Items to note:
- The project will be completed in phases.
- Prior to beginning any phases, CS&T will contact customers to make sure schedules and work being done are acceptable to those affected.
- Expected time of final completion is fall 2016.

For additional details or clarifications, please contact Andrew Holloway at andrew.holloway@ucf.edu.

Center for Multilingual Multicultural Studies

The Center for Multilingual Multicultural Studies (CMMS) room 122 is one of UCF’s newest, large-scale multimedia installations by the Office of Instructional Resources (OIR), in which a single-projection computer lab was upgraded to a high-definition, multi-display collaboration space. Prior to the upgrade, the CMMS computer lab had outdated analog technology and fixed table computer stations.

At the core of the new system are a Crestron control system, one faculty-facing and 28 student-facing computers, monitors, and five larger HD displays. Custom collaborative workstations provide adequate space for students to interact with one another and are visually a stand-out feature of the room. The control system’s interactive touch panel and graphical user interface, which was designed by OIR’s programming and design team in partnership with the UCF Human-Computer Interaction Lab, is customized specifically for this collaboration space.
Canvas Commons in Webcourses@UCF

At the beginning of the spring 2015 semester, UCF was given an opportunity to be a part of the Canvas Commons pilot. Our hope during this pilot is to determine faculty interested in importing and sharing content.

What is Canvas Commons?
Canvas Commons is Instructure’s learning object repository, also known as a digital library. This tool gives faculty members the ability to share educational resources within their departments, the university, or with other universities that use the Canvas platform. Faculty will also be able to search for and import various educational resources into their courses.

With this tool, items such as pages, quizzes, modules, assignments or an entire course can be shared. Canvas Commons also gives faculty members the ability to specify the type of license they would like to associate with their shared content; the license determines the extent to which content can be used by others. There are currently seven licensing options, which range from allowing faculty to import and edit the content, to agreements that state the content cannot be changed in any way.

Because Commons is integrated into the Canvas platform (Webcourses@UCF), faculty members can simply navigate to the content they would like to share, click on the settings menu for that particular content, then select the option to “Share to Commons.”

Importing content from Canvas Commons is just as simple. Using the “Commons” link, faculty members can search for content using a keyword. After locating the content in the repository, click the “Import” button to display the list of courses into which it can be uploaded.

Canvas Commons Resources
• Video: http://vimeo.com/110111809
• FAQ: http://guides.instructure.com/m/4152/c/92737

If you would like to receive further information about Canvas Commons or want to participate in the pilot, please contact your instructional designer, or online support at 407.823.0407.

Success Resources Page Supports Students

With the spring 2015 term came a new “Success Resources” button, which appeared to students whose courses use the Webcourses@UCF learning management system. This button leads to a selection of online resources that support academic success. The initial version of the page includes online resources provided by the University Writing Center and the Student Academic Resource Center, and additional resources from other organizations will be added over time. Within the first two weeks of the term, the “Success Resources” page was one of the most popular external features integrated into Webcourses@UCF, with more than 7,500 unique accesses.

Unlike other listings of student services, such as the Knights Academic Resource Services (KARS) website, the “Success Resources” page within Webcourses@UCF lists only services that are available online. With over 78 percent of UCF students enrolling in online courses, many of these students are located at a distance from a UCF campus or are not available during the traditional workday hours some campus services are offered. The online-specific services within Webcourses@UCF benefit all students regardless of their location or the type of course in which they are enrolled.

If you are interested in listing an online service that can support the academic success of UCF students, or if you have questions or suggestions related to the “Success Resources” page, please contact Dr. Kelvin Thompson at kelvin@ucf.edu or 407.823.0462.

UCF Emmy

“The Committee,” a documentary film by a team from UCF, recently won Suncoast Regional Emmy for Best Historical Documentary. Presented by the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences in December, “The Committee” tells the story of a Florida Legislature investigative panel that sought to root out homosexuals from state universities about 50 years ago.

The documentary was a collaborative project that spanned several disciplines. The 24-minute film was co-directed by Lisa Mills, an associate professor of film, and Robert Cassanello, an associate professor of history, both in the College of Arts & Humanities. The documentary was researched and written by students in their Burnett Honors College advanced documentary class – with backgrounds as diverse as English, accounting, journalism, computer engineering, art, and radio and TV production – and was edited by Aaron Hose, a video producer in UCF’s Center for Distributed Learning.

“The Committee” has been shown at nearly 20 film festivals nationally and internationally, and won several other awards last year. To view the film, visit https://vimeo.com/99571357.

—By Gene Kruckemyer, UCF Today

Editor’s note: Since this article was posted on UCF Today, the story also made the front page of The Florida Office of Film & Entertainment’s website (filminfloirda.com), and the documentary’s editor, Aaron Hose, received a handwritten congratulatory note from Florida Film Commissioner Niki Welge.

Emmy winners (left to right) Aaron Hose, Lisa Mills and Robert Cassanello
Firewall Upgrade

The campus network border firewalls are getting an upgrade. Firewalls are the first layer of protection for all network traffic to and from the Internet, and help defend against outside cyber attacks. The firewalls being replaced have served the university well for the past 10 years; however, newer firewall technology is needed to provide improved performance, scalability and threat protection.

With this upgrade, UCF will realize the following benefits:

• Improved throughput and reduced latency through the campus network border
• Improved filtering support for UCF public-facing servers
• Better performance to handle malware attacks
• New botnet filtering capabilities to better protect hosts accessing the Internet
• Improved software tools for troubleshooting incoming threats

The project is currently 75 percent complete. The new firewalls are installed and many of the university’s networks have been transitioned to the new hardware. The expected final project completion date is the week of March 9 (Spring Break).

eTextbook Essentials Course

Textbook Essentials is a new, online professional development course, which was created by a group of instructional designers from CDL. The overall aim of the course is to foster a better understanding of digital textbooks at UCF. It is available for faculty members who are interested in integrating eTextbooks into their courses. eTextbook Essentials is self-paced and modular, and offers an overview of eTextbooks and related digital materials, highlights the importance of eTextbooks in higher education, identifies common barriers and solutions concerning eTextbook integration, proposes considerations when implementing eTextbooks into instruction, and lists UCF-specific resources to support eTextbook integration.

For more information about the course, or to enroll, please visit: http://mobile.cdl.ucf.edu/2015/01/26/etextbook-essentials/

Lecture Capture Pilot

Since 2009, the lecture capture system in use at UCF has been Tegrity. Since then, several alternatives have become available and a decision was made to evaluate other options. Two were selected to be tried for spring pilot courses: Panopto and Sonic Foundry’s Mediasite. Classes will continue to use Tegrity throughout the spring pilot, alongside Panopto and Mediasite.

Two courses in three colleges volunteered to participate in the pilot. The students in these courses have been asked to try each of the lecture capture options, select the one they prefer, and continue to use it for the remainder of the semester.

The College of Engineering and Computer Science is piloting Mediasite, and the College of Sciences is piloting Panopto. The College of Business Administration elected to run all three systems concurrently. Near the end of the spring semester, a brief survey will be distributed to the faculty and students who participated in the pilot to get their feedback, and, based upon the cumulative data, a decision will be made at the conclusion of the semester as to which product best meets UCF’s lecture capture needs going forward.

Curriculum Materials Center

The Curriculum Materials Center, a branch of the John C. Hitt Library, is located in the Education Complex and serves all of the university’s students, faculty, and staff, as well as members of the community and teachers throughout Florida.

The CMC has long served as a computer, learning, and production lab. Students use the computers, printers, copiers, and scanners; they come to practice smartboard technology and to use study rooms, as well as check out a wealth of materials, such as books, DVDs, puppets, globes, puzzles, etc. However, over the years the technology has not always kept up with the pace of student needs.

Funding from the 2014-2015 technology fee will allow the CMC to update old computers, copiers, and scanners, as well as purchase iPads with apps that are used in PK-12 schools. The tech fee funds will also refurbish the two study rooms located in the CMC, which includes updating the computers, providing a large screen on each of the walls, as well as incorporating teamwork stations that will give students the capability to project the content of the study room computer onto the screen or to plug in their laptops and project their laptop content.

The CMC will also acquire a newer, streamlined model of the Promethean Board. Students use this smart board technology to practice lesson plans before heading into the classroom.

Finally, the CMC will also receive a 3D printer. Many of the public schools have 3D printers and offer classes that require students to use them, so having one at the CMC will put our students at an advantage, equipping them with that little bit of extra knowledge and experience in the classroom.

Students who frequent the CMC have been hoping for updated technology that works and mirrors what they will see when they step into the classroom.
On January 12, 2015, Computer Services & Telecommunications unveiled its newest addition to the Technology Commons model: Technology Commons — Classroom Lab. This renovation incorporates similar design principles as the Technology Commons, bringing dynamic space design and innovative learning technologies to north campus.

In addition to new computers and furnishings, Tech Commons — Classroom Lab offers students access to collaboration areas, informal meeting spaces, and high-level tech support at a Student Support Desk. The new layout includes 125 seats, 64 computers and a high-end editing station. Collaboration booths allow students to work in groups. In addition, students and faculty members are able to borrow mobile devices such as Dell Latitude and MacBook Air laptops and Cintiq tablets. To better support collaborative and flexible learning, the available space maximizes wireless coverage throughout, including the outside patio, which has been equipped with additional seating. Wireless and traditional printing are also available.

The Student Support Desk, located at the center of the room is available to assist students, staff and faculty members with technology questions, including hardware and software assistance. This location serves as a satellite for the Technology Service Center, and customers are able to drop off their computer for repair.

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**Tech Commons Lab**

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**information technologies & resources websites**

- Center for Distributed Learning (CDL) [http://cdl.ucf.edu](http://cdl.ucf.edu)
- Computer Services & Telecommunications (CS&T) [http://cst.ucf.edu](http://cst.ucf.edu)
- Information Technologies & Resources (IT&R) [http://itr.ucf.edu](http://itr.ucf.edu)
- Library [http://library.ucf.edu](http://library.ucf.edu)
- Office of Instructional Resources (OIR) [http://www.oir.ucf.edu](http://www.oir.ucf.edu)