

DVC InfoTech Newsletter – Fall 2008

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DVC InfoTech newsletters are online at <http://www.dvc.edu/org/divisions/information-technology/newsletter-index.htm>

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Online Courses at DVC

As many of you know, last spring semester I was out on sabbatical leave to work on my dissertation, “A Case Study of Student and Faculty Satisfaction with Online Courses at a Community College.” The case study was conducted during fall 2007 and focused on students enrolled in 3-4 unit, full-term, online courses, and all faculty of online courses. Here is a small sampling of the findings:

- By far, the most important reason that students chose online courses was scheduling flexibility.
- Over 90% of the online students lived within 30 miles of DVC or SRC.
- Last fall, 16% of all DVC students were enrolled in at least one online course.
- 75% of online students were satisfied or very satisfied with their online course.
- Satisfied students had a 33% higher success rate and 31% higher retention rate than non-satisfied.
- The biggest differences in the satisfaction of successful versus non-successful students, in priority order, was their satisfaction with self (i.e., discipline, motivation, etc.), instructor (i.e., prompt feedback, clarity, etc.), and classmates (student interaction, sense of belonging, etc.). Successful students were much more satisfied in these areas than non-successful students.
- There was no significant difference in success/retention based on attending an orientation.

The survey results and selected analyses are online at <http://voyager.dvc.edu/~bseaberry>. I will offer a flex workshop for anyone interested in knowing more about the findings. I am also happy to report that I completed the doctoral program in Educational Leadership from the joint UC Davis/CSU Sonoma [CANDEL program](#) (Fall 2009 application deadline is February 6, 2009). Finally, a special thanks to Robert Burns for serving as the interim Executive Dean while I was on sabbatical!

New DVC Website Status

The development of the new DVC website is coming along, with the goal of making it the default DVC website this December, 2008. We will resume workshop opportunities for content contributors, beginning 10/17/08 and continuing on a weekly basis through the end of the semester (details to be provided via future email). Here are some of the major differences between the current and new website:

1. A new navigational design that is people-oriented, not subject-oriented (e.g., future students, current students, business and community).
2. New navigational menus and labels based on Interact Communications’ (a) discussions/research with individuals/groups from all constituencies and, (b) consultation with the DVC Technology Committee and Web Workgroup.
3. A new web-based content management system, [OmniUpdate](#) that allows users to create/edit web content by using a standard web browser. FrontPage will not be used on the new DVC website.
4. A built-in workflow system (OmniUpdate) by which content is created and approved on a development server, before being published to the production server.

5. Every employee may have their own "Bio (biography) page" to include a picture and information about their professional background/activities related to DVC. See for example, <http://dev.dvc.edu/org/bios/RBurns/>. To request a Bio-page account, go to <http://dev.dvc.edu/faculty/directories/bio-page-request-form.htm>.
6. After the new website becomes the default, the current website will continue to be accessible until all relevant information is migrated to the new website.
7. [Voyager](#) will continue to remain online, independent of the new website.
8. Each office/department will need to designate one or more people to become content contributors. Opportunities for learning how to use OmniUpdate will resume on Friday, 10/17/08 in ATC 109, and will continue on a weekly basis through December. Workshop details will be emailed later this week.
9. User information from the Exchange (Outlook) Global Address List (GAL) will be used to provide faculty/staff directory lookups on the new website: First name, last name, email address, phone extension, office location, department, department area. We are currently updating the GAL with the purpose of ensuring that it is always up to date in the future. The added benefit is that you will be able to find someone's extension, office location, etc., in Outlook through the Exchange GAL. Also, FYI, when you look up users in the GAL it's a simple matter to add them to your Outlook contacts by right-clicking on the username and responding to the pop-up menu.

In the future, content and design decisions for the new website will be managed by the Office of Marketing and Communications. Information Technology and Services will continue to manage the web servers, applications, databases, user accounts, technical training and support.

IT&S Summer 2008 Projects

Last summer, the following projects were completed by Information Technology & Services staff:

1. Summer Technology Institute 2008 with workshops in WebCT, Office 2007, Photoshop, and Accessibility. Thanks to Neal!
2. Performing Art Center enhancements: A digital snake was run from the sound booth to the stage (enabling additional resource management) and a supplemental microphone mixer was installed in the sound booth. Thanks to Guy!
3. Three additional smart classrooms were installed in the Athletics portables. Thanks to Richard!
4. Staff computers: Approximately 70 of 86 staff computers were replaced with new computers and about 25 used computers were reissued to part-time faculty and hourly worker offices. Thanks to Ed, Willie, Rafique, Michael, John, Don, Ivan and Mike! (They are still working on installing the remaining new computers.)
5. Student computers: Computer lab replacements in BFL 107, 108,109 (Business) and BFL 213 (Foreign Language Lab). Thanks to Jocelyn, Ivan, Michael Gong, Michael Aber and Matt!
6. Continued development of new DVC website. Thanks to Leslie, Jeanette, Triveni, Chrisanne and Kappu!
7. 115 computers in the LC building were removed and reinstalled to facilitate re-carpeting. Thanks to Don, Ivan, John and Mike!
8. Progress was made on the development of the new Web Curriculum System (WCS2). Thanks to Triveni!
9. Installed a new computer lab for Student Services in SSC 214 (completed in fall). Thanks to Ed, Rose and Mike!

IT&S Fall 2008 Projects

This fall, Information Technology & Services is working on the following projects:

1. Complete the new DVC website.
2. Complete the Web Curriculum System II Project (WCS2).

3. Complete the Advanced Technology Center: Student lab servers, laptop computer cart, video conferencing, video-lecture classroom, hardware/software updates (FFE funding).
4. Replace 11 video projectors in the Math building (special equipment funding).
5. Install 3 new smart classrooms in the LA building: LA 119, LA 120, LA 220 (special equipment funding).
6. Develop and document college-wide standardized process/timeline for requesting software installations in the student computer labs.
7. Install two new Domain Name Servers to replace Taylor
8. Install new/replacement UPSs in network wiring closets (special equipment funding).
9. Install new server backup software (special equipment funding).
10. Implement eSARS online: A web-based application for students to request counseling appointments.
11. Finish the wireless installation throughout the BFL building.
12. Install a new server to virtualize student servers (special equipment funding).

Computer Security: Lock or Log Off

This is a reminder that you need to lock or log-off your computer whenever you leave it unattended for any amount of time. You can lock your PC very quickly by pressing the Windows Logo key and the letter L simultaneously. To log-off, hold down the Control-Alt-Delete keys and select Log Off. Instructions for locking a Mac computer can be found at <http://osxdaily.com/2007/04/23/ask-os-x-daily-how-do-i-lock-a-mac-os-x-workstation/>.

Information Technology & Services Contact Information

- The staff directory for Computer and Network Services, Media Services, Instructional Technology Support, is online at <http://www.dvc.edu/org/divisions/information-technology/directory.htm>.
- The DVC Help Desk (L112) can be reached at x2245, helpdesk@dvc.edu, and online at <http://www.dvc.edu/org/departments/computer-services/help.htm>. The hours are M-F, 8:00 to 4:30 PM. On evenings and weekends, the Computer Center Lab staff will pick up x2245 in case of emergency calls.
- WebCT support information is online at <http://www.dvc.edu/org/departments/instructional-technology/webct/index.htm>. You may also contact Jeanette Peavler (x2596) or Neal Skapura (x2878).
- For reporting off-hour technical emergencies, contact Peggy Wilson (evenings) or Jennifer O'Hara (weekends) in the Computer Center, at x2245 or x2068.

U-Drive Cleanup

This week, I will be “cleaning up” files and folders on the U-drive. In some cases, this will involve moving files/folders to other folders (such as the miscellaneous folder), or removing outdated files/folders. If you cannot locate an important file/folder as a result of the cleanup, let me know and I may be able to assist you. If no longer necessary, please remove any of your own files that you previously authored and saved to the U-drive. Thank you.