New Learning Management System

UCF's next-generation learning management system (LMS) will be Instructure Canvas. Our current learning management system, Blackboard Vista, is being discontinued by the vendor. Over the past seven months, faculty, students, and staff have reviewed and evaluated alternative learning management systems. This summer, 15 faculty and 619 students participated in pilots of three learning management systems: Blackboard Learn 9, Desire2Learn, and Instructure Canvas. Both faculty and students provided feedback on these systems. Pilot faculty members reported all systems were an improvement over the current system; however, Canvas was identified as the best system to meet UCF's future online learning requirements. A brief video describing the learning management system review and selection process is available at http://engage.ucf.edu/v/p/SqVxHMG.

Instructure designed Canvas from a clean slate with a focus on open educational resources and how students and faculty members communicate with each other. Canvas is a native cloud service, running on Amazon Web Services. Among the benefits to UCF are automatic peak load adjustments and no downtime for maintenance. Canvas rolls out updates every two weeks and users have the option to adopt changes immediately or defer the changes to a future date. For our programmers, Canvas integrates seamlessly with innovative web technologies and learning resources. The Canvas interface is openly published for ease of integration with third-party systems or for custom development and reporting.

Mobile access is an important requirement, and Instructure has made this feature prominent in its platform strategy. Canvas includes free mobile apps allowing students to view grade notifications, send and receive messages, participate in discussions, and post video and audio comments from their iPhones or iPads (Android support coming soon). For faculty members, there is SpeedGrader, an iPad mobile app through which faculty members can quickly review and grade assignments.

Features faculty liked are:
• Clean, intuitive user interface, featuring drag-and-drop functionality
• Ease of navigation within the system
• No client-side Java
• Runs in any browser
• Easy to migrate old courses and copy content from other courses
• Easy-to-use video and audio tools for posting content and feedback on assignments
• Faster tools for grading such as speed grader
• Automatic conversion of Word and PDF documents inside Canvas

More than 30 faculty members have volunteered to participate in a "soft-rollout" of Canvas this fall. In the meantime, technical teams will work on critical integrations with PeopleSoft and other business processes. All online courses to be offered in spring 2013 and thereafter will run on Canvas.

To get ready for this transition:
• Messages about the migration process will begin this fall and will continue until Blackboard Vista is decommissioned in December 2013.
• CDL will provide a migration process including cleanup of existing content for Canvas.
• Initial training for the faculty teaching this fall will begin in August. Training for all faculty will start in October, including migration sessions, familiarization with the new LMS, and hands-on assistance for migrating courses.
• Archived courses in Blackboard Vista will be available to faculty (not students) through December 2013 when the system will be decommissioned.

Follow the migration process at http://teach.ucf.edu/migration.

New OIR Director Named

We are pleased to announce that following a national search, Don Merritt has been appointed as Director of the Office of Instructional Resources.

Don has served as interim Director for the past two and a half years, during which time he led the adoption in numerous service improvements and provided extensive support for campus technology fee projects and other multimedia innovations.

Don has also taught English, Digital Media, and Mass Communication courses at UCF. Prior to joining UCF in 2002, Don was TV Operations Specialist with WESH-TV in Orlando.

Don received a BA in Mass Communication from East Tennessee State University and a MS in Mass Communication from Middle Tennessee State University. He is completing work on a Ph.D. in Texts and Technology from UCF.

Tegrity Moving to the Cloud

This summer, Computer Services & Telecommunications is moving the hosting of Tegrity, the university's lecture-capture system, from the UCF data center to Tegrity's hosting service in the cloud.

Tegrity cloud service is part of an effort to diversify critical campus systems. This move will free up six Terabytes of disk storage and significant server resources later this calendar year. UCF staff will continue to support administration of the system and integration with other UCF resources.

Classes that are delivered entirely online via video, or reduced seat-time courses supplemented by video, use Tegrity. Tegrity allows professors to make recordings in specially equipped classrooms. Recordings can then be streamed live to students in other locations, such as regional campuses, or to other students off campus. Recordings are also made available for later viewing via Webcourses, because many students like to review recordings to clarify material and when studying for exams.

Libraries' New YouTube Videos

The UCF Libraries' YouTube channel is now loaded with informative new videos.

View the new promotional video, "UCF Libraries — More than just books!" highlighting library services, or watch "Moving into Discipline Specific Research," which introduces students to the concept of "research conversations" in specific disciplines.

Faculty and students may also be interested in recent additions that show students how to find their NID and NID password, and how to print in the library.

These are just a few of the many videos available for faculty and students on the libraries' YouTube channel. Check them out at www.youtube.com/user/ucflibraries.
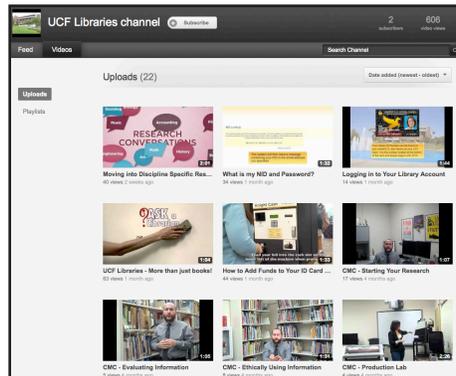
Knights Email Now in Outlook

The migration of Knights Email to Outlook Live is the first step to getting students ready for a transition onto Microsoft's new cloud service, Office 365, which will become available in the next six to 12 months.

Office 365 features include email and calendars, web conferencing, Office web apps, a public website, team sites, active directory integration, and a 99.9 percent uptime reliability guarantee, as well as enhanced security and protection features. There will be no cost to UCF students, faculty or staff for these features, according to Microsoft.

ActiveSync: Now Free!

ActiveSync allows anyone on campus with a UCF Enterprise Exchange account to set up the devices he or she has that support ActiveSync — at no charge from CS&T. There was a $2.50/month charge prior to July 1, 2012 during the phase-in of Exchange email.

Exchange users experiencing an ActiveSync connection issue, can visit www.cst.ucf.edu for information and FAQs or contact their local IT support staff or the UCF Service Desk for assistance.

Shared Bibliographic Record Projects

Catalogers in the Libraries have been working with the other 10 State University Libraries (SULs) on a project called Shared Bib, which was successfully implemented in late June. Work on the project involved merging duplicate bibliographic records in the statewide-shared online catalog, Mango, a major undertaking that resulted in merging more than 23 million records from the SULs into a shared catalog of 11 million records.

The Shared Bib project was coordinated by the Florida Center for Library Automation (now known as the Florida Virtual Campus, or FLVC). An intensive pre-and post-merge cleanup effort was required to ensure record quality. For example, different publishers in different languages have published War and Peace over many years, and it exists as a printed book, an e-book, a film, and in other formats. Only identical matches were to be merged.

Jeanne Piascik, a librarian in the cataloging department, oversaw and organized the project here at UCF, distributing cleanup tasks to catalogers and working with staff from the Acquisitions, Interlibrary Loan, and Circulation departments to test and evaluate all functionalities in the merged database. Piascik also represented UCF on the statewide Shared Bib task force and was a major contributor to the overall project.

What does this project mean for the students, faculty and staff at the 11 state universities? The new catalog, with more than 11 million items, will make it easier for patrons to search and locate needed items. For example, in the old system, if four state universities owned the same edition of a title, it would be represented in Mango by four separate records. In the Shared Bib environment, SULs that own the same edition of a title are listed on the same record.

The intent of Shared Bib is to make it easier and faster for patrons to locate needed titles. Because all of the SULs participate in UBorrow, the statewide interlibrary loan service, any patron at any of the state universities can easily borrow titles. In short, Shared Bib means faster searching, more sharing, and better library service to the communities we serve.

21st Century Library Project Moving Ahead

The proposed improvements to the John C. Hitt Library include an addition on the north side of the building facing the student union, as well as a complete renovation of the existing 218,000-square-foot building.

Foremost with the addition will be a five-story, automated retrieval center (ARC) to house the majority of the library's print collection. The ARC concept was first introduced in academic libraries in the early 1990s and is now in use in more than 20 libraries in North America. Print materials will be shelved in bins on racks as high as 50 feet tall and more than 80 feet long. The bins are retrieved and delivered robotically to a staging area, where the staff makes them available to the patron for checkout. Patrons searching the online catalog initiate the retrieval by identifying their needed item, and then clicking a "get it" button online, whereupon the robot swings into action, the item is retrieved and then delivered to a service desk within 7-10 minutes.

The advantages of the ARC concept are several. The system is able to achieve space density of up to seven times that of conventional open stack shelving methods, at ¼ the construction cost of traditional shelving.

This design will allow for much of the existing print collection to be transferred from the main library into the adjoining ARC. Space previously occupied by book stacks will be converted to patron seating. The proposed plan will increase public seating by up to 70 percent, to approximately 3,200 seats, addressing a long-recognized need for more user capacity in the building. The library will retain 350,000 to 400,000 volumes (20-25 percent of the total collection) in open stack for traditional browsing, with the ARC holding up to 1.5 million volumes.

The 41,000-square-foot ARC addition will also feature a new north side entrance, facing the Student Union. The existing entry facing the Reflecting Pond will remain the traditional main entrance, while the new north side entrance will greatly ease congestion,

Above the five-story ARC, architects are proposing a 10-12,000-square-foot public space. This space may feature a reading room with large windows and expansive views of campus. As part of the north side addition, it is proposed that an outdoor plaza be constructed with covered seating, facing the John C. Washington Center.

An equally important aspect to the library project will be the complete renovation of the existing 218,000-square-foot building. The library is actually two structures: the original 113,000-square-foot building completed in 1967, and an adjoining 105,000-square-foot addition completed in 1984. Neither the original building nor the 1984 space has received a major update since a 1984 re-dedication.

Library enhancements being considered for the 21st Century Library project include a 24-hour study zone, exhibition gallery space, digital initiatives lab, doubling seating in information literacy instructional classrooms, a tripling of group study rooms, a doubling of technology workstations, and enlarged special collections and archives space.

When the 21st Century Library project is completed, UCF students and faculty will enjoy an essentially new John C. Hitt Library with vastly increased seating, completely renovated public spaces, greatly expanded technology capabilities, and a book retrieval system that will allow patrons to access collection materials literally at the push of a button.) Stay tuned for more details as plans for this exciting project unfold.

UCFMobile App Update Released

In June, the UCFMobile app was updated with additional features including a campus map, academic search, library, phonebook, AskUCF, UCF Arena, and other resources.

Thecampus map app includes augmented reality that leverages the iPhone's camera, GPS and compass to identify the buildings around you in a 3D, interactive view. The map allows for searching and navigating more than 200 points of interest on campus.

UCFMobile is available for the Apple iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch. The Android and BlackBerry versions will be released by the end of the summer. Students and faculty can download the applications for free through their device's app store by searching for UCFMobile.

For more information, visit http://ucfmobile.ucf.edu.

New Info Lit Module

A new information literacy module will be available for faculty and students at the start of the fall semester. The new module helps students learn how to identify subject-specific databases and how to use "research conversations" to identify relevant sources. It also walks students through the process of using references to find previous research on a topic, and how to use databases, such as Web of Science, to find newer research studies that have cited older research studies.

This new InfoLit module will join other information literacy modules that are targeted toward upper-division students and graduate students, such as, "Recognizing a Research Study" and "Conducting a Literature Review."

To find a list of all 14 information literacy modules, as well as the new "Moving into Discipline Specific Research," visit http://infolit.ucf.edu. Or, contact Elizabeth Killingsworth at elizabeth.killingsworth@ucf.edu for help assigning the modules for your course.

Modules may be used in both face-to-face and online courses, and contain content, practice questions with feedback and a scored assessment tied to student identification, and sync seamlessly to your WebCourses grade book.

Shared Services

The Computer Services & Telecommunications Shared Services Center now serves:

• 84 customers with Service Level Agreements
• 14 departments using Physical Hosting services
• 20 departments using Virtual Hosting services
• More than 60TB of storage for Shared Services Customers
• 16 departments with 1600 NET Domain users
• 2 full colleges: College of Health & Public Affairs and College of Education
• The entire IT&R division
• HR, Finance & Accounting, Business Services, and Administration & Finance

To investigate the advantages of Shared Services, email Bob.Yanckello@ucf.edu.

Technology Fee Timetable

Over the past three years, the UCF Technology Fee has provided students and faculty with state-of-the-art facilities and resources to enhance teaching and learning. The timetable for the AY 2012-2013 Technology Fee award cycle is listed below.

IT&R conducted a proposal-writing workshop, which reviewed the AY 2012-2013 guidelines and proposal submission and review process. (Technology Fee guidelines are online at http://itr.ucf.edu/techfee/20122013TechFeeGuidelines.pdf.) Colleges and departments considering submitting a Tech Fee proposal this year were invited to attend.

Dates to remember:
Aug. 6
Online proposal submission forms go live at: http://itr.ucf.edu/techfee

Aug. 15
Technology Fee Proposal Writing Workshop, 1:30 p.m., Student Union Cedar Key, Room 223

Sept. 21
Academic year 2012-2013 technology fee submission deadline (5 p.m.)

Libraries' New OneSearch

The UCF Libraries is excited to announce a new service called OneSearch, accessible now on the library home page at http://library.ucf.edu. OneSearch will search much of the Libraries' content in one easy search.

Funded by the UCF Student Technology Fee, OneSearch combines a fast, simple search with sophisticated tools to refine and filter results. Users can search many databases and discover journal articles, print and electronic books, digital collections, images, government documents, newspapers, videos, and other primary and secondary sources.

Researchers who previously needed to search multiple databases to tap all interdisciplinary sources can now use one tool in one powerful interface. OneSearch will allow undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty members to discover a wealth of information previously requiring searches in multiple sources. The integrated search interface will bring together discipline-specific resources and save researchers time and effort.

OneSearch does not search all databases. For example, ProQuest databases, such as Dissertations and Theses Full Text, and SciFinder Scholar, are not in OneSearch. However, individual databases not covered in OneSearch are all accessible from the library home page.

To try OneSearch, use the search box on the library home page at http://library.ucf.edu.

Jamaica Me Cheer!
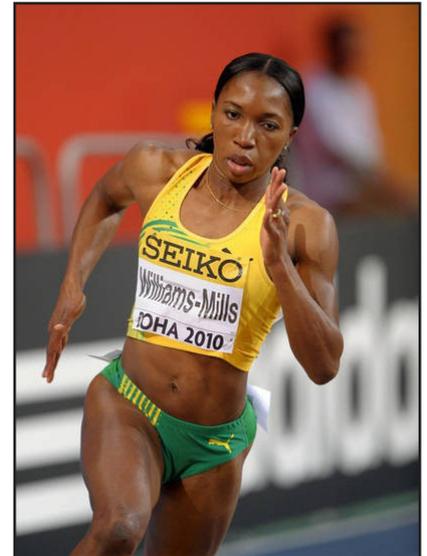
OIR programmer Jameel Mills traveled to London to cheer on his wife, Novlene Williams-Mills, as she competed for Jamaica in the Women's 400m and 4 x 400m relays.

This was her third Olympic appearance; she won a Bronze medal at both the 2004 and 2008 games.

In this year's games, she earned another Bronze for the Women's 4 x 400m relay, and she placed fifth in the Women's 400m.

information technologies & resources websites

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