Information Security Enhancements

Last year, 95 percent of U.S. data breaches involved compromised end-user credentials; consequently, the UCF Information Security Office and UCF IT are continuing to take steps to increase the security of UCF users' credentials and UCF online accounts. On September 7, multi-factor authentication (MFA) will be implemented for all users who have access to student and employee records (defined in the system as "greater than self-service access") when signing on myUCF. MFA reduces the risk of email cyber threats.

MFA is a simple process that prompts users who can access sensitive data within myUCF with an additional log-in screen after entering their NID credentials. Users will be offered an option to select one of three secondary methods of authentication available through the multi-factor authentication service:
1. A mobile device application named Duo Security
2. A temporary time-based code generated using the MFA mobile security application
3. Receiving a phone call

Employees with elevated access can prepare to use MFA in advance by completing the MFA enrollment process. For an overview of the setup process, visit http://it.ucf.edu/security/multi-factor-authentication/.

To further protect UCF user accounts, Microsoft Advanced Threat Protection (ATP) has been added to enterprise Office 365 email and related services on August 17. ATP scans incoming messages containing web links or attachments and prevents access to most harmful websites and opening harmful attachments. Please continue to be wary of URL links in email messages, and do not give your personal information or credentials.

Free Access to LyndaCampus

LyndaCampus is a web-based training resource that offers thousands of online training videos on technology, business, photography, graphic design, and marketing, along with a host of other topics.

We are pleased to announce that through financial support from the College of Arts and Humanities, the College of Business Administration, and Information Technologies and Resources, the university is able to provide unlimited access to all UCF faculty, staff, and students. This will provide opportunities for our UCF community to enhance their skills. This service is scheduled to end in May 2018, but could be extended with continued financial support. We encourage everyone to take advantage of this great resource while it's available.

Users can log on using their NID credentials at http://www.lyndacampus.aa.ucf.edu.

IT2020

Progress on the overall IT 2020 initiative, the establishment of UCF IT, and the university-wide information technology organization continues. Numerous committees and workgroups are meeting on a regular basis to continue the build-out of UCF IT, identify future cohort units, and establish an enhanced service-based support organization to meet the needs of the university.

Departmental IT units currently transitioning into UCF IT include the Center for Distributed Learning, the College of Graduate Studies, the College of Undergraduate Studies, the Office of Instructional Resources, the Office of Research and Commercialization, UCF Connect, and University Libraries. IT leaders from these departments have been meeting with many of the different areas of UCF IT to formulate a roadmap for their transition, which they expect to complete in early October.

Tech Fee 2017

The AY 2017-2018 technology fee request for proposals is now open.

Online proposal submission forms are available at http://www.itr.ucf.edu/techfee/. Proposers are strongly encouraged to review the Technology Fee Guidelines at http://itr.ucf.edu/TechFee/TechFeeGuidelines.pdf. The deadline for submission is Monday, September 25, 2017 at 5 p.m. Questions can be directed to techfee@ucf.edu.

Individuals considering submitting a technology fee proposal are invited to attend a proposal writing workshop on Thursday, August 17 at 3 p.m. in Technology Commons, room 102.

Prudential Productivity Awards

The Center for Distributed Learning (CDL) was recently awarded three Prudential Productivity Awards. An accessibility group including Jacob Bates, Karen Tinsley-Kim, John Raible, Nancy Swenson, Eric Colon, Fenel Joseph, and Emily Sachs won for UDOIT, a software program that scans Webcourses@UCF and recommends changes so online course content can be made accessible to students with disabilities.

In addition, two CDL instructional designers, Kathleen Bastedo and Sue Bauer, received an award for IDL7000, an advanced professional development course for faculty who previously completed IDL6543.

Also recognized from CDL were Matthew Emond, an assistant web application developer, and John Raible, an instructional designer, for creating the Quiz Extensions tool, which helps faculty more quickly and efficiently provide qualified students extended time on quizzes and tests in Webcourses@UCF.

Each team was awarded a plaque honoring their achievement at a June 22 Prudential Productivity Awards luncheon organized by Florida TaxWatch, a non-partisan and non-profit government watchdog.

Photo: Denise Twyford

21st Century Library Project Update

Construction of the Automated Retrieval Center (ARC), the large structure underway between the John C. Hitt Library and the Student Union, is on schedule with an expected completion in late fall 2017. The ARC will eventually house the majority of the print collection, which in turn will allow for current shelving areas to be repurposed as to accommodate additional student seating, group study rooms, and other user spaces.

In addition to construction of the ARC, restrooms on the third and fourth floors have been completely renovated and are now open. Restroom work on the first and second floors is nearing completion, with an expected finish date in mid-August. All will feature enhanced wheelchair accessibility, new fixtures, flooring, and lighting.

The north and east stairwells have been completely renovated, with stairwells South, Front, and West expected to be completed by the start of the fall semester. All five elevators are being renovated this summer and fall. Elevators 3 and 4 are expected to be back in service by the end of August, with the remaining three elevators completed in September and October.

To address student requests, additional electrical outlets will be added in the second-, third-, and fourth-floor study areas by the start of fall classes. A new 170-seat fifth-floor student study and seating area, which is nearly complete, will feature bold carpet and paint colors and many new power outlets.

Organizational Changes

UCF has become recognized nationally, and even internationally, as a leader in digital learning—both online and in our classrooms. UCF Online, our advanced multimedia learning spaces, and the comprehensive support we provide to our faculty members and students have become drivers of student success and completion, improved teaching practices, and significant economic impact.

In recognition of the increasing importance of digital learning and its potential to positively impact access and student success far into the future, Provost and Executive Vice President Dale Whittaker has announced the formation of a new university Division of Digital Learning. Tom Cavanagh has been selected to lead this new division as Vice Provost for Digital Learning. The Center for Distributed Learning and the Office of Instructional Resources comprise this new division. Simultaneously, the Information Security Office has become an operational department within the division of Information Technologies & Resources under the leadership of Chris Vakhordjian, who has been named Chief Information Security Officer. These changes became effective on August 2.

Please join us in congratulating Tom Cavanagh and Chris Vakhordjian. We wish them well in their new roles.

National Awards

University of Central Florida faculty members were recognized for excellence in online education, receiving two national awards from the United States Distance Learning Association in Indianapolis during the USDLA 2017 annual national conference. Thomas Cavanagh, vice provost of the Division of Digital Learning, received the Outstanding Leadership Award. The award recognizes leaders who "excel within their organization, consistently reaching out through mentoring, sharing and collaboration."

"It's a great honor to be recognized with the USDLA Outstanding Leadership Award," Cavanagh said. "It's an honor I gladly share with the entire staff at the Center for Distributed Learning. The team here at UCF truly is outstanding."

In addition, Charles Dziuban, Patsy Moskal, Jeffrey Cassisi and graduate student Alexis Fawcett received the Quality Research Paper Award from USDLA, given to authors who produce a research paper that has the potential of making significant advances in the area of distance learning. Dziuban is director of the Research Initiative for Teaching Effectiveness at UCF and has been on the faculty since 1970. Moskal is the associate director for RITE and has been at UCF since 1989. They have been leading the impact evaluation of UCF's distributed learning program for the past 20 years. Cassisi is a professor in UCF's Psychology Department and has been a faculty member since 2008. He is one of the early innovators in adaptive learning pedagogical methods. Fawcett has been developing innovative data analysis techniques during the past two years.

—Alina Hernandez

Tom Cavanagh accepts his award.
Photo: Anita Gabbard

Penny Beile Named Research Fellow

Operated through the David O. McKay School of Education at Brigham Young University, the Open Education Group (OEG) is committed to expanding the research base on the cost-savings, outcomes, use, and perceptions of open educational resources. This year, the organization received the Excellence in Research Award from the International Open Education Consortium.

UCF Libraries' Penny Beile was one of 27 research fellows selected for this honor from a very strong nationwide pool of applicants. Recipients are part of a fellowship program that lasts for 18 months and has an approximate value of $5,000.

Collectively, the fellows represent 24 institutions of higher education. Beile is working with IKM, including Meghal Parikh, Andre Watts, Alyssa Mullins, and Scott Milbuta, to explore the impact of adopting free or low-cost course materials on student behaviors, such as course grades, persistence, and enrollment intensity. This study complements survey research (being conducted by UCF CDL instructional designers Aimee deNoyelles and John Raible), which, to date, reveals high student satisfaction with the free, online course materials. Both studies are researching faculty adoptions facilitated by the textbook affordability working group, which also includes librarians Sarah Norris and Rich Gause.

If you are interested in more information about textbook affordability at UCF or are using open or low-cost materials in your course, the working group would like to hear from you. Contact Penny Beile at pbeile@ucf.edu.

Office 365 OneDrive for Business

Office 365 is more than email. OneDrive for Business has been activated for everyone who has an enterprise UCF email account. Each UCF OneDrive account has 5 terabytes of storage available and can work on nearly any device. OneDrive for Business is now the best option for storing UCF work-related files and documents to share among devices or with other authenticated users. An added benefit that was enabled with OneDrive for Business is Office Pro Plus. UCF Office 365 users now have access to five personal Office 2016 licenses. These Office 2016 licenses can be used on any personal desktop or laptop and will allow access to all of the UCF Office 365 features that are currently active or will be activated in the coming year.

Cartoon Art Exhibit

Special Collections & University Archives' latest exhibit, "Recollections of a Cartoonist: The Glenn 'Marty' Stein Collection of Cartoon Art, 1955-2013," features a selection of drawings, sketches, political cartoons, and comic strips. Based on Stein's unpublished manuscript, "Recollections of a Cartoonist: Creating in Different World," the exhibit includes examples of Steins work from the 1970s through 2008.

The Special Collections & University Archives' exhibit space is located on the fifth floor of the John C. Hitt Library. The exhibit will be up through September 2017.
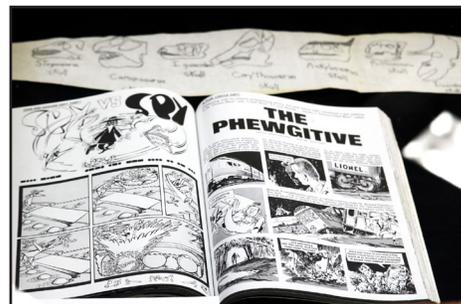

Photo: Cynthia Dancel

DIVerse Families Receives National Grants

UCF librarian Kristine Shrauger, former UCF librarian Yolanda Hood, women's studies lecturer Anne Bubriski-McKenzie, and sociology professor Liz Grauerholz received a Carnegie-Whitney Grant from the American Library Association in 2015.

This grant is intended to create, review, and analyze children and young adult books that showcase interracial and LGBTQ+ families. Additional funding sources include a second Carnegie-Whitney Grant, an in-house library grant and a UCF Center for Success of Women Faculty fellow to expand the project.

The definition of "family" is evolving, and families are being constructed in a variety of ways. Not only do children and parents need books that reflect their lived experiences, but all families — regardless of structure — should have the resources available to teach their children about the differences they will encounter as they grow. One way of doing this is through literature. These books impact kids at a pivotal age and provide the appropriate vocabulary to discuss our diverse social fabric.

The new database is hosted on UCF's STARS (Showcase of Text, Archives, Research & Scholarship), at http://stars.library.ucf.edu/diversefamilies/.

This collection is currently comprised of 642 books, mostly for children and young adults, which depict interracial and biracial LGBTQ+ families, including transgender children and parents. Some of these books open a dialogue with children regarding racism, tolerance, prejudice, and skin color.

Coming soon to the *DIVerse Families* database are books that tackle topics such as incarcerated parents, foster children, adoption, kinship care (children being raised by grandparents or other relatives), and families who are homeless.

Diversity Task Force

The IT&R Diversity Task force has been working diligently to emphasize the president's goal of diversity and inclusion throughout our division. The team has been busy developing the website to spread our message of "a globalized, competitive and innovative workforce through diversity and inclusiveness." In collaboration with the Office of Diversity Inclusion, several classes were offered over the summer, with more planned for fall.

The task force is looking forward to further engaging IT&R and the UCF community in Diversity Week, which will take place October 16-20.

OIR Hosts Two InfoComm Tours

Every biennial around mid-June at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, FL, there's an annual conference and exhibition for audiovisual technology buyers and sellers. It's the largest of its type in the Western Hemisphere, with this year's attendance reaching 44,077. This event is known as InfoComm. The Office of Instructional Resources (OIR) had the opportunity to not only to present two sessions during this conference, and host two AV tech tours of UCF.

Don Merritt, Todd McMahon, and Bradley Jones presented the two sessions, titled "Transitioning Users to New Technology Spaces" and "Classroom Design and Management to Reduce Costs to Increase Uptime and Usability."

Several OIR staff members also gave AV tech tours of UCF. They were able to give two groups of 50 individuals from dozens of organizations a good look of UCF's advanced AV spaces.

OIR team that led InfoComm Tours