Welcome to Fall 2008. This is the first newsletter since the division name was updated to the Division of Information Technology (IT) formerly ICT. In addition to our new semester newsletter, regular video podcasts called ‘Technology Minutes’ are available on the IT website, EMU homepage and soon on iTunes-U.

One of our goals is to inform the campus about latest IT initiatives, and provide an opportunity for communication on improvements in information technology at EMU.

An initiative currently underway is IT Governance, which is a strategy for guiding information technology planning and the use of IT campus-wide. The IT Governance Steering and advisory committees will begin this fall planning the effective use of IT to advance teaching, learning, scholarly activities and University services. The committee membership includes constituents from all divisions.

Another initiative in progress reduces excessive printing in labs. IT Labs have implemented a printing allotment per student. More information on this program is available at: http://printing.emich.edu/

Goodbye E-Mail Quotas...

During the Winter 2008 term, the EMU E-mail Selection Committee unanimously recommended that EMU implement EagleMail based on the Zimbra Collaboration Suite (ZCS).

The university-wide selection committee included student and faculty representatives with the goal of selecting a system that would meet EMU’s collective needs. Collaboratively, staff have been working since May to have EagleMail ready for roll-out to the EMU community on October 3rd.

The new system, for the first time, provide EMU students, faculty and staff with unlimited email storage.

The new system includes a “client-like” interface that is familiar and contemporary to extensive users of e-mail. While individuals will retain the ability to use external clients such as Microsoft Outlook and Mozilla Thunderbird, the web-based system will provide and support a robust feature set that is comparable to the best client products available on the market.

Updates about the roll-out and more information about the new e-mail system, are available at: http://www.emich.edu/email/
Free Online Skill Training

The Division of IT provides all faculty, staff and students with free access to thousands of online courses (Skillport) and books (Books24x7) through the eTraining Website available anywhere there is Internet access 24/7, 365 days a year. IT is excited to announce that we have collaborated with Halle Library to also make the Books 24x7 available through a search in the library’s online catalogue at: http://www.emich.edu/halle.

You will still be able to access both the courses and books by logging in to eTraining with your my.emich username and password at: http://etraining.emich.edu.

Take the self-paced enrichment courses on a PC or Mac, either online or downloaded to your computer, on subjects such as:

- Desktop Computer Skills (Microsoft)
- Web Design
- Software Development
- Operating Systems
- Server Technologies
- Internet and Network Technologies
- Enterprise Data Systems

While there, be sure to take advantage of the abundant job aids, online mentoring for IT Certification courses, simulations, email and live chat access to subject matter experts.

E-Mail Stats

In January 2008, the Division of Information Technology installed a new anti-spam system from IronPort. The product is considered to be one of the best, if not the best, anti-spam solutions on the market today. This technology will also be in place to protect the new EagleMail system from SPAM when the system goes live on October 3, 2008.

E-Mail Statistics
July 27, 2008 to Aug 26, 2008

Processed a total of 171,142,290 messages.
Rejected 165,187,239 (97%) SPAM messages using IronPort Reputation Filters.
Rejected 390,455 messages because they were directed to invalid EMU e-mail addresses.
Marked 2,043,763 messages (1%) as SPAM using SPAM signature scanning of messages not rejected via reputation or bad address filtering.
Delivered 3,520,833 messages (2%) that appeared to be legitimate e-mail messages directed to legitimate EMU e-mail inboxes.

Technology Support For Faculty

Intro to Microsoft Office 2007
Curious about the new interface, file extensions and maintaining file compatibility with previous versions? Contact John Bruenger at jbruenger@emich.edu.

Student Reporting
EMU Reports, the new online reporting system, was launched on September 24, 2008. It will replace Crystal Reports for student data reporting. For more information on how to use this powerful system contact Drew Daniels at adaniels@emich.edu or Kathy Robertson at krobertso1@emich.edu.

Blackboard Vista
Are you interested in adding a web-enhanced component to your course? Contact John Bruenger at jbruenger@emich.edu or Diane Lawrence at dlawrence3@emich.edu.

Audio/Video Editing
Audio and video editing facilities are available in Halle Library. Contact Diane Lawrence at dlawrence3@emich.edu.

Podcasting
Would you like to create an audio or video podcast series for inclusion in EMU on iTunes U? Contact Diane Lawrence at dlawrence3@emich.edu.

Web Page Creation
Interested in creating an EMU website? Does your class make a website for a class assignment? Contact John Bruenger at jbruenger@emich.edu.

My.Emich Training
Do you need assistance accessing student data from the Faculty tab? Contact Sue Procter at sprocter@emich.edu or Kathy Robertson at krobertso1@emich.edu.

Presentations
Learn to make your presentations more effective and professional looking. Contact Diane Lawrence at dlawrence3@emich.edu.
Faculty Spotlight

EDMT course explores educational aspects of social networking, virtual worlds.

By Kimberly Buchholz

In an era where an estimated 80% of college students participate in social networking on a regular basis, forward-thinking educators are exploring ways to incorporate its many applications in the classroom.

Many see virtual worlds such as Second Life, an interactive, 3D world imagined and created entirely by its users, as the next evolution of the internet - and an ideal place to expand the definition and application of distance learning.

In January, 2008, Eastern Michigan University's Educational Media and Technology program began offering Virtual Worlds and Social Networking in Education (EDMT 592), a course designed to study the educational applications of social networking tools by actively participating in them.

"Second Life's ability to host very realistic simulations is exciting," said Jon Margerum-Leys, Ph.D., who serves as associate professor and EDMT graduate coordinator. "There is a lot of potential for students to be able to have a shared simulation experience, even though they are geographically separated."

Second Life (SL), developed by Linden Research, Inc. and launched in 2003, is a computer-based simulated environment intended for its users, or "residents," to inhabit and interact via personally created three-dimensional models, called "avatars."

Avatars are controlled by keyboard and mouse, and communicate through gestures, text and real-time voice (using voice over internet protocol, or VoIP). They can create goods or provide services to other avatars and collect fees in the form of Linden dollars (L$), which can be converted to real money. To get around, avatars can use traditional means - walking and driving cars, for example - or they can fly and teleport to a specific location at will.

Real Estate in Second Life can be purchased for real money by the parcel or as expandable islands. Land begins as a blank canvas, with owners choosing what to do with the space.

Some residents build dream homes or tropical retreats. Others develop and operate stores or recreate places that exist in real life. From the International Spaceflight Museum to the Sistine Chapel, from a shopping mall to a tree house in the backyard of your childhood home, anyplace can exist in Second Life.

"As a scientist, I could attend a lecture in a virtual space with the head of a satellite program in the days before its launch. As a student of economics, I could make an object and leave it for sale in a virtual market," said Michael McVey, Ed.D., assistant professor and instructor of the course.

"The possibilities are endless and remarkable. As a curious human being, I can explore a world unknown to me."

Recently, Princeton University unveiled its Second Life campus, which includes 3D reconstructions of the school's real campus, spread out over eight islands. In 2006, Harvard Law School offered CyberOne: Law in the Court of Public Opinion, a course taught largely through Second Life.

Other schools are signing on, too. University of Florida, Ball State, Bowling Green State University and Michigan Technological University, among others, are holding class in Second Life, with more institutions purchasing space regularly.

Basic accounts are free; premium accounts, which allow land ownership, have sliding fees depending on the amount of land owned.

EDMT 592 is currently in its first of two offerings with 14 students enrolled. From there, the course will move through a rigorous approval system before being incorporated into the EDMT program.

Ron Woody, a graduate student in the EDMT program, is a student in the class.

"Dr. McVey is leading the class through some cutting-edge Web 2.0 experiences," said Woody, associate director of academic technology and computing services in EMU's Division of Information Technology.

"I'm looking forward to working with EMU faculty and colleagues on the development of an EMU presence in Second Life."

The second offering will likely take place during the Fall 2009 term.

"Social networking has a power that expands the walls of the classroom," said McVey. "It can inspire students to see themselves as active participants in the vibrant world of scholarship."
Emergency Alerts—Questions & Answers

Q: How do I sign up to receive emergency alerts?
A: Visit getrave.com/login/EasternMichigan. Provide your my.emich e-mail address, your cell phone number and other required information. Important: To activate alerts, you must click the link inside of the e-mail confirmation. Once you activate the service, it will remain active until you cancel it. Registration training is available as a link from the web site listed above.

Q: Who provides the alert service?
A: EMU has contracted with Rave Wireless to provide the service. Rave Wireless also provides other mobile phone programs and services to other Universities. A Rave branded phone service is NOT required to sign up.

Q: Does EMU send “non-emergency” alerts via text message?
A: No. EMU only sends messages that are considered to be emergency notifications, severe weather notification or campus closure notifications due to severe weather. In addition, EMU will send two test messages to the system each year. EMU distributes “non-emergency” notifications via the campus e-mail system.

IT Computer Lab Locations and Hours

Morell D. Boone
Computing Commons
G07 Bruce T. Halle Library
Phone: 734.487.2121
PCs: 108 Macs: 24

Fall 2008
Monday—Thursday 7:30 am-1:45 am
Friday 7:30 am - 10:45 pm
Saturday 10:00 am - 10:45 pm
Sunday 1:00 pm - 1:45 am

Owen Computing Lab
101 Owen Building
Phone: 734.487.2241
PCs: 90

Fall 2008
Monday—Thursday 8:30 am - 9:50 pm
Friday - Sunday Closed

Pray-Harrold 327 Computing Lab
Pray-Harrold 327
Phone: 734.487.3271
PCs: 30

Fall 2008
Monday—Thursday 7:30 am - 9:50 pm
Friday 7:30 am - 4:50 pm
Saturday - Sunday Closed

MultiMedia Commons
First Floor Bruce T. Halle Library
Phone: 734.487.2687
PCs: 30 Macs: 13

Fall 2008
Monday—Thursday 7:30 am–11:45 pm
Friday 7:30 am - 10:45 pm
Saturday 10:00 am - 10:45 pm
Sunday 1:00 pm - 11:45 pm

Student Center Computing Lab
270 Student Union
Phone: 734.487.1365
PCs: 43

Fall 2008
Sunday - Saturday 24-hour access

Division of Information Technology
Mission Statement

Information technology (IT) is a cornerstone for the success of contemporary universities. At Eastern Michigan University, the mission of the Division of Information Technology is to provide and support IT resources that advance teaching, learning, scholarly activities and University services. The Division of Information Technology is committed to helping EMU achieve its strategic vision for excellence in education to attract and retain students, faculty, staff and external support.

More details about our mission are available at:
https://it.emich.edu/teams/missionvisionvalues.cfm