

THE LTS CONNECTION

News & Information from Library & Technology Services at Lehigh University



Blackboard Replacement

THE EDITOR'S UPDATE

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NEWS



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This fall the Association for Computing Machinery's Special Interest Group for

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Editor's Update: November 2009

In every other issue of LTS Connection we include a feature called "LTS Advances Lehigh" to share with the campus what our staff members are doing in the local community, state-wide, nationally and internationally. It adds up to a lot of important activity.

To attract and retain staff appropriate to Lehigh University, we want to create a culture that honors innovation, outreach, and professional achievement beyond Lehigh University, just as we do for students and faculty members. They go hand in hand. This is our way of providing a glimpse into this world.

Some staff members who make significant contributions to the professional world outside Lehigh prefer to be silent about those activities so readers are often seeing only the tip of the iceberg.

--Susan A. Cady

LTS Director for Administrative and Planning Services

Article posted November 18, 2009



Blackboard Replacement Transition to Begin January 2010

In January 2010 LTS will begin a process of transitioning from Blackboard to a new course management system. This process will be complete by the 2010 fall semester when the new system, Course Site, is in place for all courses.



Three factors contributed to the decision to move to this new environment:

1. Faculty and student feedback on the annual Blackboard survey has shown an increasing desire for enhanced, easy-to-use features. Course Site provides an intuitive environment, improved grade book, enhanced discussion forum capabilities, along with many other features.
2. Course Site will allow the University to save significantly on our annual licensing cost, allowing these dollars to be shifted to support other teaching and learning initiatives
3. A new version of Blackboard has been released which is very different from our current version. The amount of re-training that would need to be done to familiarize faculty, students and staff with this new environment is considerable and would not necessarily result in appreciable improvements for the people using this system

Three very successful Course Site pilot tests were run throughout the spring, summer and fall 2009 semesters. These pilot courses spanned all four colleges and included undergraduate, graduate, and distance education students. Positive feedback from faculty and students provided the impetus for making this move campus-wide. Here are some of those comments:

"I now use the grading spreadsheet function. Bb's was not worth the effort. I really like being able to add my own grading scales." - Instructor

"Pictures of students with all references to their names is GREAT!" – Instructor

"MUCH better discussion forums...have been able to do a lot more with it." – Instructor

"The discussion boards are more user-friendly and provoke discussion." - Student

"Students can have more control over submitting their work - I like this. For example, I'll often ask for initial draft, then final draft. In Bb, this would have to be two separate



assignments. In Moodle, it's all the same drop box -- makes more sense." - Instructor

Multiple opportunities to learn about Course Site as well as training and faculty development sessions will occur in December and early January for those faculty wishing to move their courses for the Spring 2010 semester. Additional learning opportunities will also be available throughout the Spring and Summer 2010 semesters.

For more information on this ongoing project go to:
<http://www.lehigh.edu/coursesite>

--*Sherri Yerk Zwickl*

Article posted November 18, 2009



Linderman Renovation Adds Vresic's Walkway

Following the Founder's Day ceremony in October at Packer Church, Lehigh University dedicated a new walkway that leads to the entrance of Linderman Library, and honored the generosity of benefactors Jack '81 and Dawn '82 Vresics.



The refurbishing of Library Drive was part of the original plans for the library's renovation project as well as part of Lehigh's overall campus plan to create additional walkways and green spaces throughout the university grounds, making Lehigh more pedestrian friendly. President Alice Gast noted that "through Dawn and Jack's generosity, the Vresics Library Drive Walkway completes this vision ... linking the campus and elevating Linderman Library as the gem that it is meant to be."

President Gast also announced that Brad Scheler '74 and his wife, Amy Frolick, have generously funded and named Room 200, the Humanities Forum, which now successfully completes the \$10 million goal to preserve, renovate and transform Linderman Library. Brad and Amy have previously gifted the Scheler Family Seminar Room on the fourth floor.

In responding to this news, Vice Provost for Library and Technology Services Bruce Taggart expressed his great appreciation for Brad's leadership as chairman of the Linderman Renovation Advisory Committee, his infectious enthusiasm about the project, and his ability to communicate effectively to others the vision, and now the reality, of the Linderman renovation.

The final design for the main donor lobby plaque is now underway with its planned unveiling to coincide with the February 2010 trustee meeting. To be sited in the library's vestibule, this permanent plaque will honor those alumni, parents, and friends who made a leadership gift of \$10,000 or more to the renovation project. There's still a small period of time to join these donors. Please contact Susan Vengrove (sgv2@lehigh.edu or 610-758-6624) with your interest.

--Susan A. Cady
LTS Director for Administrative and Planning Services

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Lehigh iPhone App Now Available

Lehigh University is now offering its first ever iPhone App called "LehighU Live". LehighU Live is the official application for essential, up-to-the-minute information about what is happening on campus. Developed collaboratively by LTS and University Relations, it is designed specifically for the iPhone or iPod Touch device.

Features of the application include:

- People - Look up faculty, staff and students at Lehigh by searching part, or all, of their name, email address, or phone number. Tap to call, to e-mail, or to add them to contacts.
- Places - Browse a location-aware Google map of Lehigh's three contiguous campuses. Zoom in on satellite images, search locations or view photos and descriptions, find your current physical location on the map, change map styles, drop pins to mark a location, and more.
- News- Stay connected to the university whether on campus, or thousands of miles away.

Choose from:

Lehigh News- Access top headlines and breaking news from the university

Brown & White- View content from Lehigh's student-run newspaper

Sports Top Stories- Keep tabs on scholar-athletes and varsity sports

Sports Scoreboard- Get sports scores as they are updated

Events- Check out what's going on around campus. View the entire academic calendar for the current Fall or Spring semester or browse the thousands of cultural and extracurricular events that happen on campus each year across its many venues.

LehighU Live is now available for free download using the iPhone or iPod Touch from the App Store.

--Greg Skinner

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Fritz Digital Library Unveiled

On the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of Lehigh University's Fritz Lab, a new collaboration between Library and Technology Services, the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department, and Printing and Mailing Services has resulted in the digitization of approximately 150 technical publications.



The newly established Lehigh Civil and Environmental Engineering Digital Library encompasses selected publications of the department, including Fritz Laboratory Reports, IHL (Imbt Hydraulics Lab) Reports and ATLSS (Advanced Technology for Large Structural Systems) Reports. The complete bibliography covers over 3,000 reports in the database.

Fritz Engineering Laboratory Research reports are comprised of research findings from departmental projects funded by various governmental agencies, industry and professional societies between roughly 1921 and 1989.

The research reports include the civil engineering fields of structural (both concrete and steel) engineering, hydraulics, geotechnical, environmental/sanitary and fatigue/fracture engineering. A number of the Fritz Lab research project reports represent theses, dissertations and publications.

In order to prioritize digitization of the 3,300 publications included in the collection, a number of faculty in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department were surveyed. Those reports determined to be the most significant were selected. Highlights include groundbreaking findings regarding bridges, highways, concrete, and steel, among other areas.

This new digital library is accessible through either the Fritz Engineering Laboratory 100th Anniversary website or the LTS Digital Library Projects website (<http://digital.lib.lehigh.edu/fritz/>). Researchers may access all of the full-text digitized reports by limiting search results to "PDF only" in the second search box on the website.

--Lois Fischer Black

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LTS to Transition to Windows 7

Library and Technology Services (LTS) has been testing Windows 7 (Microsoft's new operating system) for the past several months in anticipation of its scheduled release which occurred on October 22, 2009. LTS plans to upgrade all public computing sites from Windows XP to the 64-bit version of Windows 7 after the spring 2010 semester.



For public testing, LTS has configured some computers at the EWF 180 and EWF library public sites with Windows 7 64-bit. As with any operating system upgrade, there may be some applications that will not function properly in the new environment.

Faculty who use software for courses should test their applications as soon as possible and provide feedback to windows@lehigh.edu. For a list of applications found to be incompatible, general Windows 7 information and a link to provide feedback, visit <http://www.lehigh.edu/win7>.

Students, faculty, and staff will be eligible to purchase a Windows 7 installation disk (for use on personally-owned home PCs) through the Lehigh Bookstore some time during the spring 2010 semester.

More information about the Windows 7 migration will be provided in the upcoming months. If you have any questions or concerns regarding Windows 7 or the implementation timetable, please contact the Help Desk at 8-HELP (8-4357).

--Susan A. Cady
LTS Director for Administrative and Planning Services

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Faculty Highlight Teaching Opportunities at Lehigh Island Grand Opening

On October 22, Lehigh faculty, students, and staff marked the Grand Opening of Lehigh Island in Second Life by participating in a variety of first-life and in-world events. Second Life is a virtual world that offers new options for innovation in teaching and learning as well as many other features not related to the academic enterprise.



Director of Faculty Development Greg Reihman, who is directing Lehigh's Second Life project, offered attendees some background about the Island. "When we first acquired the virtual property in Spring 2008, we had only a glimmer of what it might become. We built a virtual UC, an amphitheater and some relaxing beaches.

When we first unveiled the island in November 2008, we focused on encouraging people to think about the possibilities of this virtual university environment. Since then, we've been working with a number of folks who have taken the plunge. As a result, today, for the Grand Opening, there's a great deal to see and do on the island."

Johanna Brams, instructional technology consultant at the IMRC in Maginnes Hall, and her team of student designers and programmers have been busy building areas of the island for specific faculty, giving tours and helping users learn how to build and navigate the terrain. She and history graduate student Jeff Remling offered a tour of the island as faculty members from six different departments explained some of the ways they are using the island.

Roger Nagel (CSE) explained how he has students use the island to explore new forms of business entrepreneurship and collaboration. Ian Birky discussed his plans for the virtual Johnson Hall, where students unwilling to seek out a face-to-face meeting can meet with counselors. Deborah Field (Music) discussed her hopes for using the virtual Concert Hall for students to practice performances. Nik Nikolov (Art and Architecture) spoke about the possibilities for architecture students.

Dan Lopresti (CSE) explained his plans for students in his first-year seminar to explore how this new environment is shaping how we view and interact with computers. Greg Reihman discussed how he uses the Discussion Classroom for conversations with students studying philosophy and technology. And Natalie Foster spoke about how she uses the Chemistry Peninsula to build chemical models where student can experience the three-dimensionality of molecular compounds.

In the afternoon, events moved online and in-world. Participants joined in for a "Lehigh Island Murder Mystery" developed by Jeff Remling as a way for newcomers to find their way around the island. Greg Reihman hosted a discussion in the Lehigh Island Discussion Classroom on "Teaching in Second Life". And Berisford Boothe (Art and Architecture) offered a guided tour of some of his art currently on display in the Art Tower.

To learn more or find out about upcoming events, visit



<https://sites.google.com/a/lehigh.edu/secondlife>

Checklist: Things to do on the Lehigh Island:

- Build something in the Sandbox
- Meet with a friend in the UC Cafe
- View works of art by Berrisford Boothe (Art & Architecture) in the Art Tower
- Attend a lecture in the Amphitheater
- Join in a discussion in the Discussion Classroom
- Hear live music in the Concert Hall
- Tour the virtual Iacocca Hall, Johnson Hall, and Fritz Lab.

--*Greg Reihman*

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Client Services Team Leaders Roseann Bowerman and Jean Johnson presented a program at EDUCAUSE 2009 during early November in Denver on "Expanding Conversations about Information Literacy: Faculty Guidance Using Focus Groups."

Also at this meeting Sherri Yerk Zwickl co-presented a session with colleagues from Tulane, American, and the Universities of Hawaii and Wisconsin entitled "Houston: We Have a Problem" on learning from unsuccessful projects.

Special Collections Librarian Ilhan Citak has been appointed Advertising Editor of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference Publication Committee for Spring 2009-2011.

Client Services Director Tim Foley and Team Leader Gale Fritsche made presentations at the ACM SIGUCCS Fall Conference in St. Louis during October. Foley's topic was "Fostering Best Practices in Teaching and Learning" and Fritsche's was "Securing Data on the Desktop".

Help Desk Librarian Tina Hertel presented two programs at the Pennsylvania Library Association (PaLA) meeting in Harrisburg during October: one on professional career networking and another on useful online tools ("40+ Online Tools in 40 Minutes").

She co-presented with Writing across the Curriculum Coordinator Greg Skutches and two Lehigh students on the TRAC program and on the PaLA Academy of Leadership Studies at the same meeting. Tina, Greg Skutches, and Professor Ben Wright also made a TRAC presentation at the Patriot League Academic Conference at Bucknell in early November.

Computing Consultant Brandon Leeds contributed a poster session on "High Performance Computing at Lehigh" to the national Computational Engineering and Science/HPC Workshop hosted by Lehigh on October 4th and 5th. Leeds also served as a member of the organizing and program committees.

Library Systems Team Leader Tim McGeary made several presentations related to the Open Library Environment (OLE) Project. He was a panelist representing Lehigh and the OLE Project for "Open Source Systems – What is working/what is progressing?" at NISO Forum: Library Resource Management Systems in Boston, MA in October.

During November he makes two presentations. One on "Unifying Collections and Partnerships with OLE" at the LYRISIS Robert L. Cunningham Annual Bibliographic Services Conference at Holy Cross in



Worcester, MA.

The other, with colleagues from Indiana University and the University of Pennsylvania, on Quali OLE at Quali Days VIII in San Antonio, TX.

--*Susan A. Cady*

LTS Director for Administrative and Planning Services

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