ASG NEWS

A joint newsletter of the John M. Lilley Library, the Computer Center, the Copy and Multimedia Center, the Learning Resource Center, the Center for Teaching Initiatives, and the Center for eLearning Initiatives.

PSU JOINING OPEN TEXTBOOK NETWORK

Penn State University Libraries is joining the Open Textbook Network to help support Penn State faculty's use of and students' availability to free, openly licensed academic course content.

"Penn State's membership in the Open Textbook Network supports faculty and students' access to a large volume of free, openly licensed course content, available online, to help reduce students' overall cost of attendance," Joe Salem, the University Libraries' Associate Dean for Learning, Undergraduate Services, and Commonwealth Campus Libraries, said. "Joining the Open Textbook Network was one of the recommendations of the University's Open Educational Resources Task Force as part of a multi-faceted approach to supporting open and affordable course content throughout the curriculum."

The Open Textbook Network (OTN) helps support instructional use of open textbooks and practices by colleges and universities. Its Open Textbook Library is the premiere resource for peer-reviewed academic textbooks, all of which are free, openly licensed and complete, according to its website.

The College Board's Trends in Higher Education estimates that this year's average public four-year, in-state undergraduate student's costs for books and supplies is $1,160. In 2015, nine of the network's early member institutions reported a $1.5 million savings in textbook costs to students. In 2016, that number grew to $3.1 million in student savings.

Penn State is among the largest universities to join OTN, which was established in fall 2015, and an early supporter among its peer institutions.

BEHREND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

OPEN TEXTBOOK NETWORK (CONTINUED)

The Libraries will host Penn State's OTN workshop, which will be available to faculty at all Penn State campuses via live-streaming, in fall 2017 during International Open Access Week, Oct. 23-29. This event follows the University's first Open Educational Resources Summit, hosted by the University Libraries in spring 2016. Details about the fall 2017 workshop will be announced as they become available.

The Open Textbook Network is centered at the University of Minnesota's Center for Open Education in the College of Education and Human Development. The network's open textbooks are published under a Creative Commons license and are freely available to download, adapt and distribute.

For more information about Penn State's membership in the Open Textbook Network, part of our the University's overall open and affordable course content initiative, contact Joe Salem. For more information about open educational resources at Penn State, visit http://oer.psu.edu.
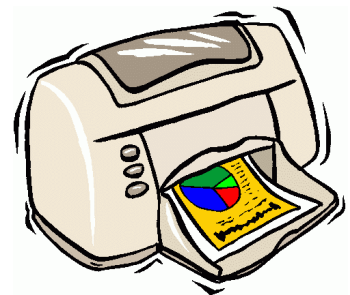
COPY AND MULTIMEDIA CENTER

Personnel Changes

The Copy and Multimedia Center will undergo significant changes in the coming months due to the June 30th retirement of department manager, John Fontecchio.

CMC's graphic artist, Martha Campbell, will relocate to the Office of Strategic Communications in Glenhill Farmhouse and the copy and printing service will remain in Erie Hall along with Amanda Langer Williamson, Mark Palmer and Tina Meckley, who will provide copy services to faculty, staff and students. Both Mario Loreti and Ken Mason will relocate to the IT department to continue their duties as classroom media consultant and audio visual technician.

New Copier System

We will soon take delivery of a new Ricoh Pro C7100SX Production Color system. This unit is configured with the 5th Color Station (CLEAR), vacuum feeding Large Capacity Paper Tray, bypass tray and Booklet Finisher with 2/3 Hole Punch. In addition the new controller, Fiery E43A has the Graphics Arts Package, Compose,   Impose and Spectrophotometer with profiler software. The new model will be the 80 ppm version which is faster than the current model. Also, the print quality is superior to anything on the market with a resolution of 1200 x 4800.

THE LILLEY LIBRARY WISHES HAPPY RETIREMENT TO DR. RICHARD HART AND PATRICIA MROZOWSKI

THE CMC WISHES HAPPY RETIREMENT TO JOHN FONTECCHIO

BEHREND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Website Changes

The college's migration to the new system is well underway as part of the University's initiative to have campus web sites use a common template. In early January, the content was moved from Behrend's platform to the new University platform. Thanks to a lot of preparation by Behrend and University staff, the migration went smoothly. In all, more than 3,700 pages of content and associated files were migrated.

Behrend IT Services and the Office of Strategic Communications are working in the new system to create landing pages for all major sections, rebuild all of the navigation and links, and implement some new features. The new site is scheduled to launch in late March.

New Phone System

Behrend will be replacing its current phone system with a Cisco VoIP (voice over IP) system. Some key features of this new system are new handsets, enhanced voicemail, and call forwarding. The procedure for dialing an outside line and voicemail will be different. Training and documentation will be provided prior to the migration. Work on migrating to the new system will begin the week of May 8 and will be completed by June 1. Classrooms will have help line (217)-HELP programmed into a button for a one call to BITS for assistance with the room technology.
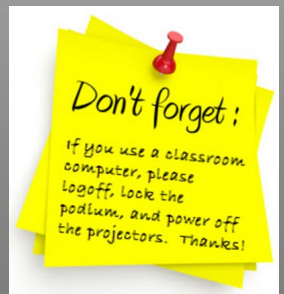
Software Asset Management

The University is undertaking a new initiative, Software Asset Management (SAM), to ensure software license compliance across the University. SAM is a centrally hosted utility that will allow each campus to manage their software purchases and use. Ken Bauer and Todd Say will be working locally to ensure compliance.

The process starts with entering purchase documentation for a software title into the SAM database. If the software is purchased from the software.psu.edu web site, this happens automatically. An automatic scan of all campus computers then lists how many instances of the software are in use. The hope is that we end up with a one-to-one match, or a situation where we have more licenses than installs. We want to avoid any situation where we have too few licenses to cover actual utilization.

Schools and departments have been contacted, and they've been asked to provide University-funded software purchase documentation to populate the SAM database. Software titles that are free or not purchased with Penn State funds are not being tracked.
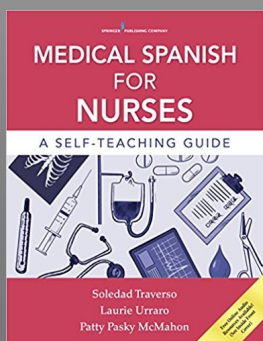
BITS wishes Happy Retirement to Larry Kosin and Lou Faulhaber.

Don't forget: If you use a classroom computer, please logoff, lock the podium, and power off the projectors. Thanks!

BEHREND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

New Tools for Video Conferencing

The daily use of web cameras and software to conduct meetings remotely has been on the rise. Many have used Skype or Adobe Connect, but these are just two of many similar tools.

The University currently has a pilot program evaluating two software packages, Bluejeans and Zoom. To use either of these applications to attend or create a new meeting, visit http://conferencing.psu.edu/. You can login with your PSU credentials to evaluate each tool, or you can use the site to simply attend another meeting using a meeting ID (no PSU credentials are necessary).

Behrend IT Services (BITS) has provided web cameras to each school office for faculty to sign out. The cameras may be used in your office or classroom. Many faculty use the meeting software and a webcam for personal meetings (in office) or for guest speakers (in class). If you're not sure how you might use a webcam, you may want to read a recent post from Behrend's Centers for Teaching and ELearning Initiatives: "What do I do with a webcam?" (http://behrend-elearn.psu.edu/ctei/blog/what-do-i-do-webcam).

Keep in mind that these tools are not a replacement for Polycom, but rather an addition to the tools available. Polycom is still the preferred method for many meetings and class sessions.

If you are uncertain on how to start using this technology, BITS staff can provide guidance and assistance. So if you have questions about using this technology in an upcoming meeting or class, need help to decide the best tool to fit your needs, or need assistance with the cameras or software, please submit an IT Support Request form (https://secure.bd.psu.edu/wa/CCRWorkOrder/WorkOrder.cfm).

JOHN M. LILLEY LIBRARY

Upcoming Book Talk

Join us on Monday, April 10 at 3 PM for a book talk by Professor of Spanish, Dr. Soledad Traverso, and Health Center Director, Dr. Patty Pasky McMahon, and lecturer in Spanish, Laurie Urraro. They will discuss the genesis of their recent interactive book *Medical Spanish for Nurses: A Self-Teaching Guide (*Springer 2017).

According to the publisher the book is "designed for those with no previous experience speaking Spanish. Online audio is available to provide correct pronunciation and prepare learners for a wide array of medical situations. Using a step-by-step approach with plenty of examples, the text enables readers to quickly develop their Spanish knowledge". Refreshments will be served.

LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER

The LRC had another record semester with just over 4,000 appointments during Fall 2016. We have seen steady increases in tutoring since we started using an on-line appointment software.
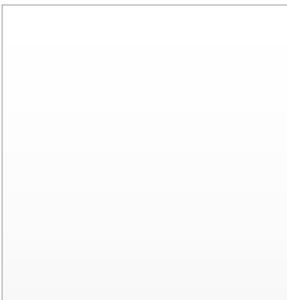
We are always looking for opportunities to provide extra support to students in core or entry level courses that have a high withdrawal or failure rate. Guided Study Groups sessions are offered for PHYS 211 and 212. Exam Prep sessions have been provided over the last few years for courses such as BIOL 110, CHEM 110, and PHYS 250 and 251. Recently, students indicated that there was a need for similar sessions for some business courses. This semester we are offering Exam Prep sessions for ACCTG 211 and ECON 102 and 104. Attendance for the very first session for ACCTG 211, was so large that we are providing additional tutors for the next session. In addition we have had requests from returning adults for group math tutoring sessions. We ran weekly sessions for MATH 81 during Fall 16 and are holding twice-weekly session for MATH 82 this semester. Group sessions are efficient and beneficial to the students as they learn how to help each other and work within a group environment.

JOHN M. LILLEY LIBRARY

"Fake" News Guide Now Online

What is "fake" news and what does news literacy mean? A new Library Guide explains the terms and their significance and offers a collection of the Libraries' news resources and credible sources in support of critical thinking skills. It was created by History Librarian Eric Novotny, who oversees the News and Microforms Library at UP, with the help of other PSU librarians across the campuses.

When asked why he thought the "Fake" News Library Guide was important, Novotny said, "Like many, fake news became part of my lexicon during the 2016 Presidential Election. I was particularly alarmed at post-election reports indicating that many readers were unable to distinguish between a real and a fake news story. As a librarian, I saw a natural role in helping our students become more savvy news consumers. My hope is that faculty and librarians use the guide to stimulate discussions on fake news and promote critical thinking skills. We want students who can judge the credibility of news sources regardless of whether they get their news from Facebook, television or library databases."

Stephanie Diaz has filled a display case in Kochel Hall on the subject of fake news. Stop by and give it a look!

CENTER FOR TEACHING INITIATIVES

Making Multiple Choice Tests More Effective

Presented via Zoom by Linda Suskie

Tuesday, 4/25/2017, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Erie Hall 21.

Please visit Schreyer's April events http://www.schreyerinstitute.psu.edu/events?date=April and Register online.

Multiple choice tests can have a place in many courses. If they're well designed, they can yield useful information on student achievement of many important course objectives, including some thinking skills. And item analysis of the results can shed light on how well the questions are working as well as what students have learned. This workshop, presented by Linda Suskie, will consist of presentations and opportunities for questions. Upon completion of this workshop, participants will be able to use principles of good question construction to develop tests, develop test questions that assess thinking skills as well as conceptual understanding, and use item analysis to understand and improve both test questions and student learning.

Mark your calendar for the Erie Regional Colloquy
May 10, 2017

The focus of 2017 Erie Regional Colloquy is on building a culture of academic integrity across campus. The day will start with a half-day workshop led by Dr. Thomas Tobin. Dr. Tobin is the author of *Evaluating Online Teaching: Implementing Best Practices* (Jossey-Bass, 2015). He describes himself as a faculty developer, professional consultant, and author and international speaker on quality in distance education.

The University Libraries owns two copies of his book. Here are some other new titles of interest on campus:

The Pursuit of the Chinese Dream in America: Chinese Undergraduate Students at American Universities LB2376.5.C6Y36 2016

Beyond the Skills Gap: Preparing College Students for Life and Work LB1027.23.H68 2016

Academic Diary: or, Why Higher Education Still Matters LB2324.B32 2016

Toward a More Perfect University LA227.4.C643 2016