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Information & Technology Services

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ITS NEWSLETTER VOL 10, ISSUE 1

High Performance *Next with Institutional Research & Planning*

Institutional Research and Planning (IRP) continues to provide external data by completing mandated federal and accrediting body reports as well as providing data for our stakeholders in standard and ad hoc reports. IRP reports annually to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) and Middle States Commission on Higher Education. As you may be aware, the Cooperative Institutional Research Program Freshman Survey (CIRP), the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) and the Noel-Levitz Student Satisfaction Inventory Survey are used as assessment tools.

IRP, in collaboration with EDUS, is working on the development and enhancement of institutional dashboards and the development of a Banner data dictionary. In addition, Ms. Laurie Blake, system administrator for SPOL, will provide technical support and training for the Planning, Budget, and Assessment module in SPOL.

For the 2014-15 AY, Institutional Research & Planning will complete the annual 2014-15 Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Middle States Institutional Profile, the Open Doors International Student Census, the Survey of Graduate Students in Science/Engineering, including the NSF 2013 Survey of Science and Engineering Research Facilities, the ACT-IDQ, Consortium for Student Retention Data Exchange (CSRDE), College Board Annual Survey of Colleges 2015, the Petersons Interim Expense Update for UG Institutions 2014-15 as well as, the Peterson's 2014-15 Annual Survey of Undergraduates.

The next important survey is the 2015 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), which will be administered spring of 2015. It is a critical activity in preparation for UVI's upcoming accreditation. The first is the amount of time and effort students put into their studies and other educationally purposeful activities. Then survey results point to areas where colleges and universities are performing well and aspects of the undergraduate experience that could be improved. IRP registered early to beat the closing deadline of September 25, 2014. IRP will administer the survey from mid-February through March. Flyers posted around campus and email communication will include more details. Students who complete the survey 100% will have an opportunity to have their names entered in a drawing for a chance to win a "Grand Prize" of \$500. IRP will also offer \$25 iTunes gift card incentives. Past reports for NSSE are available via the myCampus portal under the Communities tab via the IRP website.

The Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) Freshman Survey was successful with the support of the FDS coordinators, staff, instructors and students. This survey was administered during the first three weeks of classes on

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both campuses to incoming first year students (first-time, full-time freshmen, part-time and transfers). The survey examined established behaviors in high school, academic readiness, admissions decisions, interactions with peers and faculty to name a few. Feel free to view reports for CIRP on the myCampus portal under the Communities tab via the IRP website.

High Performance

St. John Academic Center News

In Fall 2014, the St. John Academic Center staff recorded a total of 71 registered UVI St. John students, the highest numbers ever recorded. This year, thirteen classes are being held each week at the Center, twelve are VC classes; one is physical (PED 265 Beginning Yoga). At least three of the twelve VC classes at the Center connect to both campuses, St. Thomas and St. Croix. Undergraduate students at the Center are enrolled in Communications, Business, Political Science, Computer Science, and World Literature classes. There is a new graduate student earning a MA in Public Administration, while another graduate student is participating in each of her three classes at the Center. All are Education courses.

The "STJAC VC Room (T102)" on STT is being used to relocate four of the STJAC students video requests this semester, a tremendous help.

C2 Grant Upgrade

The University was awarded the National Science Foundation's EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement C2 grant in August 2011 titled "United States Virgin Islands EPSCoR RII Program: Intercampus and Intra-campus Connectivity". The award made under this grant provides 1 million dollars for up to 2 years to support the enhancement of inter-campus and intra-campus cyber connectivity within an EPSCoR jurisdiction. These awards are intended to enhance broadband access for academic research and the utilization of cyberinfrastructure consistent with the jurisdiction's Science and Technology (S&T) plan. The original proposals' scope of work sought to provision and maintain 'dark fiber' infrastructure from UVI's St. Croix campus to the Global Crossing/Level3 collocation facility in order to extend UVI's WAN services.

Provisioning dark fiber to extend UVI's WAN environment has proven to be a greater challenge than anticipated. As a result, the University requested a change in scope and an extension. In June 2014, the extension was approved and now the new grant end date is January 2015. UVI is now partnering with The Virgin Islands Next Generation Network (viNGN) to provide fiber services in order to quickly meet the grant timeline and guidelines. viNGN is primarily funded by the Department of Commerce with a charter to provide wholesale broadband middle mile service to providers.

The opportunity to work with viNGN to deliver fiber connectivity from Level 3 to the STX campus (and even expand fiber services to the St. Thomas campus) is a huge opportunity for the University because implementation will be done to our specifications and is less expensive than the proposed 'dark fiber' solution. The implementation plan is to deliver 2 gigabit service that is scalable to 10 gigabits of Internet2 and commodity Internet services from Miami's AMPATH collocation facility via Florida International University. The service links will be delivered to UVI's campuses using viNGN's fiber infrastructure. The links will serve both the St. Thomas and St. Croix campuses, allowing for redundancy via UVI's inter-island radio link. It is anticipated that this will be deliverable in time for the Spring 2015 semester.

EPSCoR Upgrade Plans

The Virgin Islands Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (VI-EPSCoR) which promotes the development of the Territory's science and technology resources through multi-disciplinary research and educational programs, has recently been awarded a 20 million dollar grant from the Nation Science Foundation. The grant entitled Mare Nostrum Caribbean: Stewardship through Strategic Research and Workforce Development is intended to address the implications of changing environmental conditions for insular social-ecological systems. This project will support coral reef research that will integrate physical, biological and human factors to elucidate back up mechanisms of ecosystem dynamics, disease, and demographics along natural and anthropogenic gradients of multiple stressors from shallow near shore to deeper offshore reefs. Emerging research areas include oceanography, watershed dynamics and human dimensions. Results will lead to better predictions of coral reef responses to changing climate conditions and anthropogenic impacts, and allow systematic and informed formulation and implementation of interventions. There are six project areas; coral reef research, workforce development, cyberinfrastructure, outreach, education and diversity, and seed funding for emerging areas. Information Technology Services (ITS) is responsible for the cyberinfrastructure portion of the grant which will allow for network infrastructure improvements such as added network closet security and environmental, cloud-based disaster recovery, upgraded building cabling, upgraded core, distribution & access layer switches, upgraded UPS in network closets, and upgraded wireless coverage throughout the campuses. The cyberinfrastructure funding, spread over 5 years, is just under 1 million dollars.

High Performance *Libraries Launch Project CERES*

UVI Libraries, in partnership with the University of Florida, received a sub-award for \$8,625 from the Center for Research Libraries (CRL) to support ongoing preservation and digitization of collections in the field of agriculture. The project will enable UVI Libraries to expand the digitization and organization of materials published by UVI's RPS component between 1962-1988. Some materials were digitized previously through the Libraries USVI History and Culture digitization project in 1999-2002. Through this project, metadata and cataloging of resources will be enriched and a bibliography produced to document Land-grant activities at UVI during the years identified.

Project CERES is the result of a collaboration between the United States Agricultural Information Network (USAIN), the Agriculture Network Information Collaborative (AgNIC) and the Center for Research Libraries (CRL) to support ongoing preservation and digitization of collections in the field of agriculture. The Project CERES targets agricultural resources at HBCUs, to ensure effective access and preservation.

New Resources, Unique Tools & Updates for Library Research

Keeping up with your library resources and services can be challenging in this age of mega-data and information tsunamis. Your librarians are here for your information support. Visit the Libraries web page through the myCampus portal or <http://library.uvi.edu>, and explore the new and unique learning resources available there.

A. ASK-US – Do you need research help but have trouble getting to the reference desk? Submit your query through the ASK US link on the Libraries web page: <http://library.uvi.edu>. Librarians respond within 24 hours during the normal work week. Help is just a click away.



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B. Earth & Environmental Science is a new scientific research database from Springer publishers. It is included in the databases list on the Libraries website and through the Library Databases link in myCampus Launchpad. Be sure to uncheck the Preview Only box on the results screen to see content available for downloading. Funding for Earth & Environmental Science is provided by VI-EPSCoR.

C. EndNote reference manager application is once again available for the UVI community. Users may access EndNote through computer labs, or contact the HelpDesk for installation on personal computers. The site license for EndNote is funded by VI-EPSCoR.

D. Search Everything with EBSCO Discovery Service, a one-stop search tool for locating paper books, journals, video recordings, and eBooks. Use EBSCO Discovery Service for a quick way to get started in finding peer-reviewed, full-text resources for your research projects. This resource also includes **Publication Finder**, a quick way to see titles of full-text journals included in ALL your library databases or journals and magazines that you may find on the shelves in your library.

E. The Libraries subscribe to **over 133,000 eBooks**. Want to check out books using your laptop or other mobile device? Library eBooks may be checked out for 7-days at a time, or browsed online for easy access. Contact your reference librarian for assistance with checking out eBooks and exploring the Libraries eBook collection.

Librarian liaisons listed below:

School of Business – Mrs. Celia Prince Richard (STX), cprince@uvi.edu

School of Education – Mrs. Wenda Stephenson (STX), wstephe@uvi.edu

School of Nursing – Ms. Tanisha Mills (STT), tmills2@uvi.edu

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences:

Liberal Arts Department – Ms. Ashley Till (STJ/STT), ashley.till@uvi.edu; Mr. Elroy Richard (STX), erichar@uvi.edu

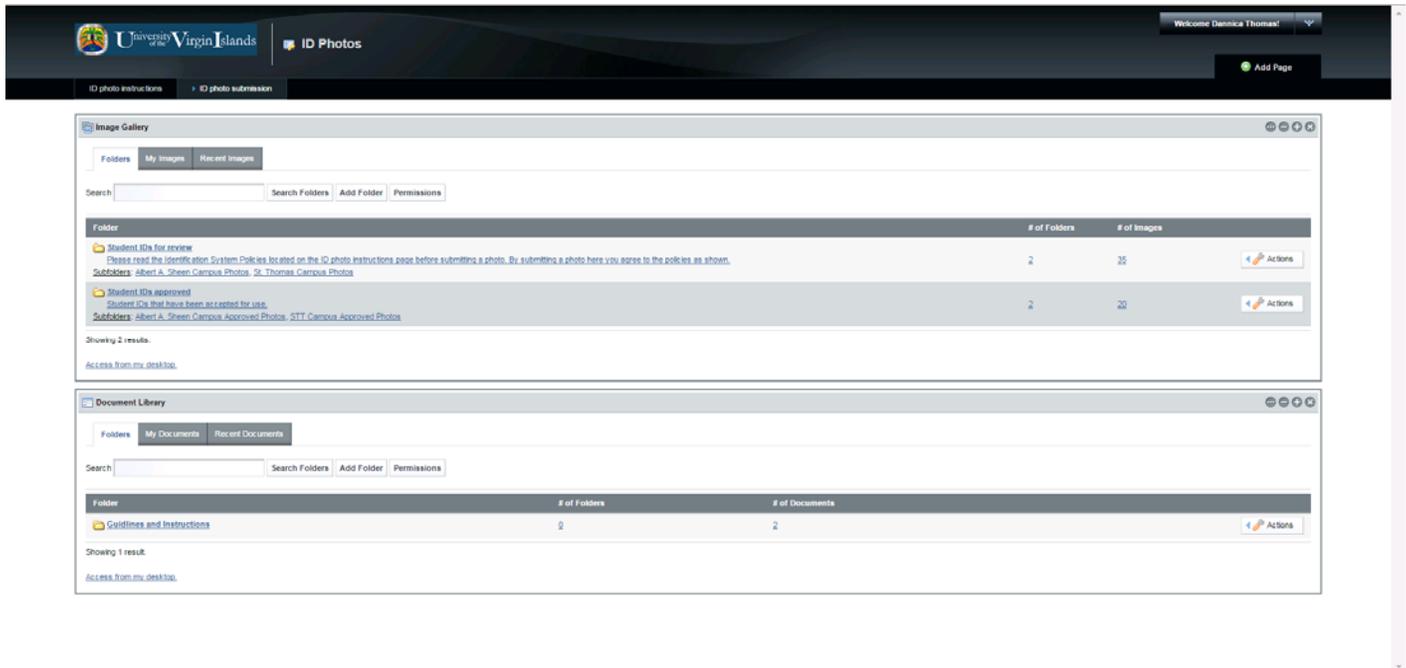
Social Sciences Department – Ms. Sherna Gumbs (STT), sgumbs@uvi.edu; Mr. Elroy Richard (STX), erichar@uvi.edu

College of Science and Mathematics – Ms. Tanisha Mills (STT), tmills2@uvi.edu

Staff members, Erik Pattison and Alex Caraballo are jointly serving as Directors of the Network Engineering & Operations department within ITS. Collectively, Erik and Alex have been with UVI over 25 years. Alex started ITS as a temporary employee and quickly made his mark with the component. For many years, Erik had worked in the UVI Media Center providing audio/visual equipment and related services. Together they will provide the knowledge, expertise, and level of service needed to not only maintain but improve the UVI network operations area.

Service Oriented *New Student ID Card Process*

Students have asked and the University has delivered. Students wanted to be afforded the opportunity to upload their own photos to a location, which can be used for their student identification card (ID). Students now have the option to have their photo taken by one of the Dean of Students staff or upload their photo to the ID Photos community that is located on the myCampus portal, which is very secure. This option is open to new and returning students. Students must follow the guidelines and post their photos in the respective folder for their campus. The guidelines can be found [here](#). To upload a photo, students can go to the following link: [ID Photo Submission](#) Image shown below.



Calling Students for the Student Tech Fee Committee



Information and Technology Services (ITS) continues to improve the student learning environments in conjunction with students to meet their technology needs. Funds from the Technology Fee enables ITS to purchase replacement computers for computer labs, add an additional videoconference rooms, and wireless access points on both campuses.

The Technology Fee also funds two (2) IT Tech staff positions on both campuses, and additional improvements to the University's learning environments and network.

Although the Student Technology Fee Committee met a few times last fiscal year there was a lack of participation from the students that were part of the committee. Information & Technology Services plans on reconvening the Student Technology Fee Committee during fall semester of fiscal year 2014. Hence, students are urged to join forces with ITS to maintain the library and technology standards of the 21st century. Be part of a great Committee that invest in students experience and future. If you are interested, please send an email to stfc@myuvi.net with your name and contact information.

Service Oriented

CETL News



The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) is definitely committed to the UVI vision, Pathways to Greatness. The CETL continues its efforts to work with faculty on an on-going basis. To this end, a CETL Pilot Advisory Committee has been restored to assist the Center and University with piloting and promoting technology, particularly in teaching and learning. The Committee has representation from the ranks of full-time and part-time faculty in various schools and colleges. The Committee was charged to test and pilot Blackboard's managed hosting site during the Fall 2014 semester. As many of you are aware, Blackboard is currently being housed on-site, which will change as of Spring 2015 to managed hosting. Blackboard services and accessibility will remain the same. Users will continue to consult with and report any issues to the CETL. What does this mean for you? Stable and Reliable platform - 24/7 support - Experienced staff - Timely updates - Security.

The CETL continues to provide high-quality pedagogical and technology training through the TLT Group and Online Learning Consortium (formerly known as the Sloan Consortium). The TLT Group provides synchronous workshops, which also assist faculty with the improvement of the teaching and learning experience in the classroom. Online Learning Consortium offers asynchronous, self-paced workshops for student-centered teaching techniques to improve students learning experience. More information can be found via the following link: <https://mycampus.uvi.edu/group/cetl/cetl-home>

The CETL also partners with a wide range of UVI departments to provide regularly-scheduled staff training in the following areas: Public Relations for website, microsites and google analytics; Human Resources for web time entry and career advancement policy (CAP); Dr. Lonnie Hudspeth for learning objectives/outcomes; Accounting for travel and expense management. Training on People Admin will be forthcoming. The CETL has scheduled and will continue to schedule training on Strategic Planning Online (SPOL), DocuSign and Travel, Expense Management, and others. Between June 2014 and September 2014, CETL reported 120 attendees. The number referenced does not include attendees of training through the Online Learning Consortium and the TLT Group events.

Please follow the CETL on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/cetluvi>; Twitter - <https://twitter.com/UviCetl>; LinkedIn - <http://lnkd.in/dKChzSC>

The Portal Corner

The myCampus portal is your message center. The myCampus portal allows users to send and receive messages in one location. Users are reminded of this great messaging tool that the portal provides.

Are you tired of trying to remember each recipient's email address? The messages tool have groups already created that users can choose from, to include staff, faculty, and students. Do you dislike when your email address is exposed to other recipients when an email is sent to you? Messages will allow users to send messages to groups and not individual users, which ultimately protects you. Are you frustrated when recipients reply to all, especially when it has nothing to do with you? Messages will allow anyone who receive a message to reply to only to the sender. How do you send a message through the myCampus portal? Please note that you must be an employee of the University in order to send an email through the myCampus portal. Simply log into the myCampus portal with your network credentials, click on the Messages tab, select the appropriate groups, enter the subject and content, and select send. That easy! What if you have an attachment? The myCampus portal will allow you to upload your attachment(s) into a designated location for easy accessibility. Simply open a new window in your web browser, go the myCampus portal, select the UVI Projects tab, click on the Public Announcements folder and select Add Document. It is highly recommended to upload documents in PDF format. After you have uploaded your document, go to where it is located in the Public Announcements folder, right-click on the document and copy the link location/URL. Thereafter, paste the hyperlink into your message and select send, when completed. Recipients will then be able to access your attachment. The great part about this feature is that you can update the document as many times as you would like without resending to your recipients to reflect such. You can change a document as many times as you would like, while recycling the same link for easy accessibility without any confusion.

The myCampus portal also have quick answer resource for myCampus, Blackboard, Strategic Planning Online (SPOL), DocuSign and other applications, which can be found [here](#).

Informed Decision Making

SAILS Prize Winners

Libraries administer SAILS assessment – Fall 2014

Since Fall 2012, the Standardized Assessment of Information Literacy Skills (SAILS) test has been administered to students enrolled in FDS 100 classes to collect information literacy data for incoming students. SAILS is a standardized test of information literacy skills that allows libraries to document research skill levels for groups of students. Results are used to identify areas for improvement and library instruction needs.

This year, the SAILS assessment was administered to incoming students, sophomores and juniors registered in Fall semester 2014. We liaised with the Summer Bridge Program, FDS instructors, and Schools and Colleges to promote the project to students. Prizes/incentives were also used to encourage students to participate in the testing.

Results from Fall 2014 study will be used to determine extent of growth in Sophomores and Juniors after information literacy instruction. The Baseline data for incoming students allows for trend analysis. The ultimate goal of this project is to identify areas of improvement and to develop new methods of instruction to prepare our students for successful careers in the information age. The SAILS project is funded through an award from Title III.

The results of the freshman SAILS test prize drawing are below. Students will be instructed to report to the Help Desk with their UVI ID cards to claim prizes.

Congratulations Winners

Canon Digital Camera
Kaytanne Greaves



Canon Digital Camera
Antonio Watts



Samsung Tablet
Sandranah Cornelius (left), with Library Specialist, Myoshi Osborne (right)

