

Academic Computing Newsletter

Academic Computing Services
State University of New York, College at Brockport
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Pardon Our Dust

Academic Computing Services has been busy this semester. A quick review shows that Dailey Hall Computing Center has been a big hit with students and faculty. ACS broke its own record for number of simultaneous users logged onto the academic mainframe in December with 150 (previous record had been 126.) Both the Mac and IBM labs are seeing growing use.

The second phase of the Dailey renovation project began in earnest during the semester break, when the first floor machine room was carved out to accommodate the upgraded Prime 6650. Public access terminals will occupy the first floor and are scheduled to be moved from their current location in Drake in May. The exact dates for the move are May 19-21. During these three days, the Prime will not be accessible, although the library's Dynix system will still be available. We ask for your cooperation in planning your use accordingly. When completed, the move will enhance our ability to provide services to the campus.

The second floor is growing also. The software library is ready for use, as is the Prime classroom. We are very interested in your comments and reactions to our initial year of operation in the new space. Feel free to speak to any professional staff member, or send E-mail to STAFF.

New User Services Coordinator

ACS is pleased to welcome the newest member of our staff, Mr. Reddy Anugu. Mr. Anugu's role will be to aid faculty regarding planning for computer use in their classrooms and research. Mr. Anugu comes to us from Selma University and is scheduled to arrive in early May. Please join us in welcoming him to Brockport. His office is located in Room 207, Dailey Hall. Stop by and say hello.

More 2400 Modems Available

Additional 2400 baud lines are now available for users dialing into the Prime and campus Equinox. To better accommodate students and faculty who want to dial in from home or off-campus, we have changed 637-2191 and 395-2191 to 2400 baud modems. If you are using a 1200 baud modem, please use 637-2181 or 395-2181. If you experience any problems with dial-in access, please send mail to STAFF or call 395-2479.

New Fax Number

ACS has finally joined the rest of the fax world. Our fax number is 716-395-2399.

Information Literacy Speakers:

1. Dr. Norman Coombs, "Medium and the Message"

Details regarding two Information Literacy presentations have been finalized for this semester. Dr. Norman Coombs from RIT will speak at SUNY Brockport on Tuesday, April 27 from 7 to 9 pm in Seymour Union, Room 220. All are invited. His presentation is titled: "The Medium and the Message". Dr. Coombs has been involved for several years with computer-mediated communication, including the use of Bitnet and Internet in the classroom. Come hear him relate his experiences with using computers in distance learning to teach history.

2. Bob Feldman and Betty Spencer, "Cornell Supercomputing Overview"

Exciting work is being done at the Cornell supercomputer by a variety of disciplines. Researchers from remote sites are able to conduct research into topics that may not be possible on local machines. These opportunities are also available to SUNY Brockport faculty and students via the SUNY Smartnode Program. Bob Feldman from Cornell and Betty J. Spencer from SUNY Buffalo will describe the programs available. Come hear their presentation Monday, May 3rd from 1 to 3 pm in Union Room 114.

These events are sponsored by the SUNY Conversations in the Disciplines grant on Information Literacy, ACS, and Disabled Student Services. They are free and open to the public.

Spreadsheet Seminar

Mark your calendars. A free two hour Macintosh spreadsheet seminar will be offered on Monday, May 17 from 9 to 11 am in Dailey Hall for faculty and staff. After the rush of exams and papers is over, come hear Joe Balog (Health Science) explain the basic mechanics of spreadsheet design using Microsoft's Excel.

If you use a different spreadsheet program you are still welcome to attend. The concepts of spreadsheet layout generalize fairly easily. Please call 2368 to register.

New Software

1. MS Works 3.0 has been installed in the Macintosh lab in Dailey this semester. This integrated package includes a word processor, spreadsheet, graphics, and communications features. MSWorks also allows you to import and export text files to and from a variety of word-processing formats including WordPerfect, MS Word, etc. (MS Works for DOS is also available in the IBM classroom lab in room 205 Dailey.) The Mac version is being used in Ed Southwick's Biology classes.

2. MS Excel has been installed in the Dailey Mac lab. Excel is a full-featured spreadsheet program that provides many special features for keeping track of budget information. (See article above for free Excel training.)

3. DERIVE - DOS-based math software has been installed on 16 of the IBM PS/2's in Dailey 205. Currently used primarily by Calculus classes taught by Joe Harkin (Math faculty), this software provides an easy-to-use math scratchpad for solving formulas and equations. Try it!

4. SPSS/PC v5.0 - The College has a twenty-five station site license for SPSS/PC. Version 5.0 has just arrived. Faculty interested in receiving the updated version can call 2368.

5. **HYPERCELL** - this Windows-based program dealing with cell biology has been installed on a number of PC's in Rooms 203 and 205 Dailey. The program uses Hypercard elements to navigate information including animations of biological processes, glossaries, experiments, review sessions and teacher's assignments related to cell biology. The software is highly visual and worth investigating. This semester, the program is being used in one of Craig Lending's Biology classes.

CIT Conference

A conference on Instructional Technologies sponsored by the SUNY FACT Program (Faculty Access to Computing Technology) is being held Wednesday, June 9 to Friday, June 11 at SUNY Oneonta. This conference is designed for SUNY faculty and instructional support professionals. Workshops, hands-on sessions and papers from a variety of disciplines are being planned.

E-mail users can retrieve a file containing abstracts of the papers to be presented at the conference. Send the message:

GET CIT93 ABSTRACT

as the first line in the body of a mail message to:

LISTSERV@UBVM.CC.BUFFALO.EDU

If interested in attending, please contact M. J. Orzech at 2368 for additional details.

Vendor Update

State contracts with Apple, Zenith and IBM are currently being renegotiated and consequently are in flux. Most vendors are moving toward providing 800 numbers for direct ordering of hardware by individual faculty, staff and students. Repair services for individually purchased hardware under warranty are also in transition. We will keep you posted as additional information becomes available on these programs.

Apple Education Series

A series of videotapes from Apple will be shown during the week of May 4 in Dailey Hall. Join us for an informal brown bag lunch, Tues. through Fri. from 12 to 1 pm. The series includes:

- Teaching With Technology,
- New Technologies For Languages & Global Literacy,
- Multimedia & Curriculum Integration, and
- Future Technologies

These videotapes may also be checked out from Frank Filardo (Television Services) for individual or classroom viewing.

Where Are They Now?

Many Brockport graduates who have worked at Academic Computing Services through the years have gone on to successful careers. We thought you might like to know about some of them.

Jeremy Shafer ('91) is now the assistant director of administrative computing services at Roberts Wesleyan College in Rochester.

Kathy Ann Caesar ('92) is now a graduate student at Texas A&M. Kathy has used Internet to keep in touch with folks at Brockport. Her Internet id is: KAC9338@ZEUS.TAMU.EDU

Mike Gresens ('92) manages a network at Unisys where he is employed in the IDF division. He was recently spotted at a Novell 4.0 seminar in Rochester.

Dan Sargent ('91) is a programmer/analyst for the City of Rochester where he's involved with a number of office automation and networking projects. By the way, Dan is currently recuperating from an auto accident and would probably be happy to hear from friends at Brockport.

This list is meant to illustrate the value of working at ACS. If you are interested, or know a student who wants to enhance their work experience and strengthen their resume, please contact Anne Parsons, computing labs coordinator, at 5470.

New Internet Item

Here is a way to get White House press releases and speeches through Telnet:

1. From the PRIMOS prompt, type: telnet infoslug.ucsc.edu
2. login as gopher
3. You'll be given a menu; choose #9, Worldly/
4. At the second menu, you can choose #7 White House Press Releases

In the third menu, you can choose Clinton's remarks which stores speech and townhall meeting transcripts. You can read remarks online there. Thanks to Bill Reed (CMC faculty) for this information.

Users In The News

Fred Halley (Sociology faculty) has recently completed a book with co-author Earl Babbie. The title is Adventures in Social Research: Data Analysis using SPSS. SPSS is a widely-used computer statistics package. The book is being published by Pineforge Press and will be out in August just in time for fall course adoptions.

Fides Ushe (Math faculty) recently made a presentation on "Using computer spreadsheets as a problem-solving tool in a math class", at the 16th Annual Symposium on Developmental Education. The symposium is part of the NY College Learning Skills Association Annual meeting held in Albany, NY.

T.M. Rao, Fred Benfer and other Computer Science faculty are planning the Annual Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) High School Programming Competition hosted by SUNY Brockport on Saturday, April 24th in Cooper Hall. High school students compete in solving problems in a timed format. The winners go on to the regional competition in Massachusetts.

Copier In Dailey

The long-requested copier will soon be available in Dailey as a convenience to students on the north side of campus. The copier costs ten cents per page and is meant to cut down on unnecessary use of the laser printers for multiple copies of resumes, project reports, etc.

CARL

Faculty and staff are encouraged to explore CARL and UNCOVER. CARL is a collection of library databases maintained by a consortium of Rocky Mountain-area institutions. CARL is used with a journal citation component called UNCOVER. Currently this service offers access to 3,000,000 articles in more than 12,000 periodicals and serials. For more information contact Steve Buckley, Associate Director in the Library, or send E-mail to LIBADM.

Software In the Bookstore

Did you know that you can now special order computer software at a substantial savings in the campus bookstore? The bookstore has software at academic discounts for IBM DOS, WINDOWS and MACINTOSH software. Contact Tim Rhodes, the bookstore manager, for a catalog or more information.

Virus Update

The March 6th Michelangelo virus did little damage at Brockport this year. However, this date now serves as a reminder of the importance of scanning your disks before using the labs. Faculty and staff users may obtain the latest version of the McAfee Clean and Scan virus protection programs from AV/Tech Services (A20 Edwards).

Computing Related Events

- Sat., April 24 ACM High School Programming Competition, Cooper Hall
- Tues, April 27
7-9 pm
Union 220-221 Dr. Norm Coombs, RIT, "Medium as Message"
- Mon, May 3
1-3 pm
Union 114 Bob Feldman and Betty Spencer, "Cornell Supercomputing Program"
Come hear about some of the work being done at the Supercomputer at Cornell including how SUNY faculty & students may access.
- May 4-7 Dailey 12-1 pm Apple Videotape Brown Bag Lunch Series:
Tuesday Teaching with technology
Wednesday New technologies for languages & global literacy
Thursday Multimedia and curriculum integration
Friday Future technologies
- May 17 Joe Balog, Excel spreadsheet workshop
- May 19-21 Moving days. Prime system unavailable. Call 2390 to check status.
- June 6-9 SUNY 2000 - Merging Technologies, COA Meeting, Syracuse, NY
- June 9-11 Conference on Instructional Technologies, SUNY Oneonta
- Tues, Oct 5
9 am-12 pm or
1 pm to 4 pm Half-day Internet introductory workshops at SUNY Brockport with Jim Gerland, University of Buffalo (details forthcoming)

Internet Treasure Hunt

Below is a sampling of questions from the December and January Internet Hunts. This monthly treasure hunt was created by Rick Gates, Director of Library Automation at the University of California at Santa Barbara. These questions are meant to illustrate some of the types of information retrievable via the Internet.

The Brockport challenge: ACS is offering a prize to the person who can track down the greatest number of correct answers to the following questions using the Internet. All answers must be sent via E-mail to STAFF. After May 5, answers will be available in the PUBLIC mailbox.

- I'm trying to find a new book on the Internet by an author named Krol. Are there any local bookstores that might carry this? I live in Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- Early last month, U.S. President Clinton proposed a new technology policy. Where can I find the text of this proposed policy?
- I'm going to be in Denver, Colorado on the nights of Jan 22-25. Will the Denver Nuggets basketball team be playing at home on any of those nights?
- I'm volunteering some time for a local hiking association. I'd like to know if anything's been written on the development of trails for the handicapped?
- How does one say "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year" in Czech?
- Is the Toyota Motor Corporation connected to the Internet?
- What is the primary religion in Somalia?
- What is the text of the 1st Amendment to the Constitution of the United States?

DIAL Access Phones

From any phone:

300/1200 baud	637-2181
2400 baud Equinox	637-2191
2400 baud	637-2188
9600 baud	637-2180
300/1200 Microvax	395-5762

From on-campus phones only:

300/1200 baud	ext. 2181
2400 baud Equinox	ext. 2191
2400 baud	ext. 2188
9600 baud	ext. 2180

Set communications parameters to:

Full duplex, Parity=MARK or NONE,
7 data bits, 1 stop bit.

Prime Status Line 395-2390
(A recorded message giving the current
status/availability of the Prime)

ACS Hours

ACS-Dailey Lab	x2247
Monday-Thursday	8 am - 11 pm
Friday	8 am - 9 pm
Saturday	1 pm - 9 pm
Sunday	1 pm - 11 pm

These hours subject to change, based
on availability of student employees.

ACS Staff

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