



ITACS

Information Technology and Communications Services

Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California

Technology News

May 2006

PARTNERSHIP AND OUTREACH

The **Provost's** office and **Dr. Richard Doyle** hosted a visit by **Dr. Clara Yu**, President of the Monterey Institute of International Studies, on May 25th. The focus of Dr. Yu's visit was Distance Learning and Instructional Technology. Accompanying Dr Yu were the MIIS Provost, **Dr. Amy Sands**, the Dean of the Business School, **Dr. Ernest Scalberg**, and ten faculty members representing a number of academic departments. **Ms. Sharon Colton**, Director of DL at MPC, was also in attendance. Dr. Doyle hosted a program that included presentations by OCL, Operations Research, CHDS, ITACS, Instructional Technology and the MOVES Institute.

Dr. Christine Cermak hosted a visit to NPS by **Dr. Bud Tribble**, Vice-President of Apple Computer, Inc., on May 26th. Included in the day's agenda were presentations by **Dr. Leonard Ferrari**, **Dr. John McEachon**, **Dr. Rudy Panholzer**, **Dr. Don Brutzman**, **Dr. Rudy Darken**, **Dr. Ted Lewis**, and a luncheon that included **Dr. Chris Olsen**, **Dr. Peter Denning**, **Mr. Merrill Ruck**, **Dr. Bill Colson** and **Dr. Bret Michael**.

INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH UPDATE

The *2005 Factbook* – which has a new format — has been published. Filled with facts and figures on students, enrollments, information technology, the library, research and more, the *2005 Factbook* is a resource for pertinent information about NPS. Copies have been distributed throughout campus, but contact Debi Cole at ext. 3985 if you would like additional copies.

CENIC CONNECTIVITY UPDATE

The circuit to connect the state higher education network, CENIC, will be operational on June 19th. Testing of the circuit will begin immediately.

ERN TRANSITION UPDATE

All of the Schools, the Comptroller, the Mezzanine, and the Research Office have been moved to the ERN. All labs and students that are not graduating this summer will be moved over the summer break. New accounts created within the past 30 days have been established on the ERN.

STREAMING MEDIA REVIEW

A team of ITACS personnel, led by Mr. Pete Randazzo, assisted in streaming the 7th *International Symposium on Technology and the Mine Problem* from May 2-4. The webcast can be found at the following link: <http://nps.webcastinabox.com/portal>.

Look for the Recent Events and Featured Events section on the right hand side of the page, and follow the prompts that will guide you to the webcast.

ITACS will be video streaming the NPS graduation ceremony on June 16, and the awards ceremony conducted prior to that on June 6. Click [here](#) for the links to both. If you have any questions, please contact the Technology Assistance Center (TAC) at 656-1046, or e-mail: TAC@nps.edu.

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY RECAP

After receiving a briefing by **Mr. Tracy Hammond**, outlining the ongoing planning process for instructional technology, NETC has awarded \$500,000 to NPS.

A pilot project is underway to renovate the physical facilities in two classrooms in Spanagel Hall, using \$10,000 from the IT budget. Mr. Pete Dausen has identified another \$112,000 to assist with further renovations of NPS classrooms, including window coverings, carpets, desks, chairs and HVAC.



ITACS

Information Technology and Communications Services

Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California

Technology News

May 2006

RECAP FROM THE NEW TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION CENTER

On May 11th, **Mr. Joe LoPiccolo**, **Mr. Jon Russell** and **Ms. Salma Sallam** visited UC-Davis to tour two of their immersive visualization facilities. **Professor Oliver Staadt** of the UC-Davis Computer Science Department, and **Dr. Oliver Kreylos** of the Institute for Data Analysis and Visualization, gave the group a demonstration of both their PowerWall and KeckCaves systems. Mr. Mal Green, a sales representative for FakeSpace Systems, the company that built both items for UC-Davis, was also in attendance. To see a sampling of movies that feature some of the applications for which UC-Davis is using this immersive visualization technology, click [here](#). Please note that this is a full three-dimensional display to the user.

REPORT FROM THE TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE CENTER

From May 1-29, the Technology Assistance Center (TAC) answered a total of 2,468 calls, 1,913 of which were resolved by the Tier 1/Tier 2 areas. 555 of the remaining calls were answered by other ITACS departments/groups. Overall, 91% of calls received were resolved. 90% of calls referred to the Tier 2 TAC staff, and 98% of calls to the Tier 1 TAC staff were resolved.

NOTES FROM THE IT TASK FORCE MEETINGS

Dr. Doug Brinkley presented a summary of his year-long Thin Client Technology experiment. SUN gave the NPS Foundation a grant, which in turn, was awarded to Dr. Brinkley for an evaluation and testing program. Thin Client technology has a number of advantages: (1) quiet operation since it has no moving parts; (2) power conservation since it consumes 1/10th the power of a normal traditional desktop computer, and (3) a longer life cycle. One

of the most important requirements for the Graduate School of Business and Public Policy (GSBPP) is the availability of a thumb drive. Since many of the thin client vendors do not offer a thumb drive, that capability was the differentiating factor in vendor selection for GSBPP. Dr. Brinkley has written a paper summarizing both his approach and the results, which he will present at a professional conference later this year. The next step in the evaluation process is testing. Classroom 271 in Ingersoll Hall will be set up with 40 computers as a test site. The project is scheduled to be up and running by Fall Quarter 06.

Mr. Joe LoPiccolo is preparing a project plan for Thin Client technology, and that plan will propose appropriate locations on the campus for further piloting of this technology. **Ms. Judit Sedillos** volunteered the Knox Library as a potential site.

Based on allocation of IMET funds, wireless build-out for the campus is scheduled for completion by the end of FY06.

A contract for the integration of DORS and DMAS — the financial planning and budget system — is in place, and the move to convert the spreadsheet system to a database system should be completed by the end of FY06.

The IT scanning capability is running again, so users can call TAC for a computer scan.

The IT Task Force committee is reviewing the Local Administrative Rights Policy for ITACS.

Internet2 and National LambdaRail, in which NPS has memberships, is planning a merger. This is significant because through an integrated governance model the new organization will provide advanced, high-speed networks to a community of research universities and national laboratories.