



ITACS

Information Technology and Communications Services

Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California

Technology News

September 2006

STREAMING MEDIA

The streams from the August Distance Learning Summit, sponsored by the Office of Continuous Learning, are now available on the ITACS Video page at: <http://www.nps.edu/technology/video>. For assistance in viewing, please contact the TAC at ext. 1046 or tac@nps.edu.

CENIC

A public event celebrating NPS joining CENIC, the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California, is planned for October 30, 2006. CENIC oversees the state higher education network, linking the University of California and California State University campuses. Four non-state institutions are members: Stanford, USC, Cal Tech, and NPS. CENIC provides access to high-speed national networks such as Internet2 and National LambdaRail, as well as international networks such as CLARA, and STARLIGHT. The event will take place in the morning on the quarterdeck. CENIC president **Mr. Jim Dologonas** will attend, and invited guests include local government representatives and CSUMB leadership. **Provost Leonard Ferrari** will host the event for NPS.

COMMUNITY IMPACT STUDY IS RELEASED

The Community Impact Study: *The Ripple Effect*, was published in September. Developed by the Office of Institutional Research and the Office of Institutional Advancement, the study documents the economic, academic and social impact of NPS on the local community, and describes the extensive partnerships that NPS enjoys with the local higher education and research-related institutions within the region. The report was distributed throughout NPS, sent to regional higher education and government leaders, and formally presented to the Monterey County Business Council on September 22, 2006.

The Provost's *Ad Hoc* Committee on Business Practices submitted its report to the Provost, and a summary of the report method and recommendations was presented to the Executive Council in mid-September. The report is now posted on the Provost's website, and an implementation task force is being established.

BUSINESS SOLUTIONS GROUP UPDATE

The Business Solutions Group and **Mr. Mike DiFranco** in the Public Affairs Office (PAO) created a brand new photo gallery that will let NPS archive all the photos that it posts to the public in a searchable format. The new site complies with DoD regulations, and gives the PAO full control over the submission of photos. Find the link to the site on the right-hand sidebar on the nps.edu homepage, or at: <http://www.nps.edu/PAO/PhotoGallery/index.asp>

DORS-DMAS PROJECT

The DORS-DMAS integration project was presented by **Ms. Danielle Kuska** (Director of Research and Sponsored Programs) to the IT Task Force on September 21, 2006. The project, a partnership with the Comptroller's office, ITACS and the Research Office, was one of 15 recommendations made by the Provost's *Ad Hoc* Committee on Business Practices. The outcome is a more complete, timely, and user-friendly financial reporting system for principal investigators. The next phase of the project will address integration of direct budget information.

INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH/WASC

The Office of Institutional Research continues to staff the WASC proposal process. The proposal was drafted for campus review this month and is being finalized now for submission to WASC by October 15, 2006.



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HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING (HPC) CENTER

On September 7th, the HPC Center added a new cluster called “cheetah,” which belongs to Mechanical and Astronautical Engineering (MAE). The cluster will support structural analysis and fluid dynamics computations, and help solve research problems for supersonic flight. This cluster, one of the two most powerful computers on campus, consists of 132 processors, 130 GB of memory, and 1.1 TB of storage, and has a “peak” speed of 528 GFlops (528 billion floating point operations per second). This cluster will be supported by the HPC Team: Ms. Donna Burych, Ms. Salma Sallam, Mr. Ray Chatten, and Dr. Jeff Haferman.

Dr. Pat Sankar, who has joined the Dept. of Information Sciences as a visiting professor, will be working with the HPC team to develop algorithms for biometric identification, and for the solution of nonlinear equations.

REPORT FROM THE TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE CENTER

From September 1 through September 26, the Technology Assistance Center (TAC) received a total of 2,835 requests for assistance, 2,383 of which were resolved by the Tier 1/Tier 2 areas. 452 of the remaining calls were answered by other ITACS departments/groups. To date, 1,330 machines have been moved from .mil to the .edu domain. Spanagel and Bullard Halls were completed in September. Halligan and Watkins will begin in October.

The Monterey Peninsula Department of Defense-Net was extended to Personnel Research Center (PERSEREC) in Heritage Harbor on October 27th. Circuit activation from PERSEREC to NPS and testing of PERSEREC's firewall configuration is scheduled for the first week of October.

PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTREACH

The launch of the new Content Management System, the result of a collaboration between Dudley Knox Library and ITACS, occurred on September 26th.

NPS Foundation President **Mr. Bill Warner**, NPS Foundation Executive Director **Admiral Merrill Ruck**, and NPS CIO **Dr. Christine Cermak** visited Apple Vice President **Dr. Bud Tribble** in San Jose on September 8th. The visit was a follow-up to Dr. Tribble's visit to NPS in May, where he had the opportunity to meet with a number of NPS faculty and students doing IT-related research. The meeting focused on a partnership between Apple and the NPS Foundation, and Dr. Tribble agreed to be the executive sponsor for NPS within Apple.

On September 26th, Vice President of Foundry Networks **Mr. John Burger** and two of his senior managers visited NPS and met with Dr. Christine Cermak, the NPS Foundation, and faculty who are doing research in areas of possible interest to Foundry. Among the faculty participating are **Dr. Peter Denning**, **CAPT Dan Bursch**, **Dr. Don Brutzman**, **Ms. Sue Higgins**, and **Dr. Karen Burke**. The purpose of the visit was to familiarize Mr. Burger with NPS and to begin discussions about a possible partnership with the NPS Foundation.

On September 14th, ITACS senior managers visited Cisco Corporation for briefings about network technologies and service management tools that will be available in the near future and should be considered for the next NPS network upgrade. The group received executive-level presentations on the Cisco 6500 series product line and was given a demonstration of the Cisco telepresence system that will make videoconferencing more lifelike.

Dr. Amy Sands, Provost of the Monterey Institute for International Studies (MIIS), asked NPS to host a



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meeting on September 27th to continue discussions about distance learning initiatives at MIIS and at NPS. GSBPP Professor **Dick Doyle**, the Office of Continuous Learning, the Center for Homeland Defense and Security, and ITACS staff met with Provost Sands and her team, and identified a number of infrastructure and service areas for possible collaboration.

EDUCATION CLUSTERS GROUP

The third meeting of the Education Clusters group was held on September 14th. The group, co-chaired by **Dr. Clara Yu**, President of MIIS, and NPS CIO **Dr. Christine Cermak**, reviewed a draft website and brochure – showcasing the contributions of each of the region's higher education and research-related institutions. The Education Clusters project is sponsored by the Monterey County Business Council.

NEW TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION CENTER

Mr. Joe LoPiccolo of the New Technology and Innovation Center (NTIC) will be speaking about the origins and development of NTIC at the EDUCAUSE Conference in October 2007. A number of ITACS personnel will be attending the EDUCAUSE Conference, which will include topics such as Desktop Management, Pod casting, Computing in Higher Education, NTIC, and the 2006 Campus Computing Survey.

COPIER CONTRACT UPDATE

Xerox will replace the 79 copiers on the NPS campus with new multi-function devices beginning in October. Included in the 5-year contract is daily on-site support.

The award for the business-level production unit, for small publishing jobs on campus, was given to

Xerox on September 30th. ITACS partnered with the Office of Institutional Advancement to help the campus get this contract

WIRELESS PROJECT UPDATE

The current state of wireless capabilities on the NPS campus consists of a mix of about 100 access points, many of which are nearing the end of their life cycles, and provide about 45% overall coverage. Security compliance is done manually, which produces vulnerabilities, and guest access to multiple clients is cumbersome and labor-intensive. The goal of the updated wireless project — which originally was endorsed as a pilot project by the IT Task Force three years ago — is to reduce the number of access points on campus, while providing 100% coverage within all buildings of the campus, future-proofing, an out-of-band solution, security compliance, central management, network access control, zero client footprint, different levels of access, and decreased loads on the Technology Assistance Center. The solution is a modular-based system provided by Bradford Networks and Mesh Dynamics, whose contracts were awarded on September 18, 2006. Completion of the build-out is expected in late November.

IT WORKFORCE ASSESSMENT SURVEY

ITACS personnel have completed the web-based Information Technology (IT) Workforce Assessment Survey 2006 sponsored by the Chief Information Officers Council (CIOC) Workforce and Human Capital for IT Committee, along with the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) e-Gov Office

Survey results will be used to identify trends and needs in our organization and across the Federal government IT population, and as input toward future human capital planning efforts.