Subject: [External] [Test] News from the CIO - Issue #24, September, 2022

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From: Dave Baird

To: Dave Baird

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Wesleyan University
Information Technology Services

Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to bring you the Fall, 2022 edition of "News from the CIO". In this issue:

- Transforming the Enterprise with the Replacement of PeopleSoft
- Welcome to New ITS Staff
- Please Verify/Update your Directory Information in WesPortal
- ITS Self-Help Resources – Knowledge Base and LinkedIn Learning
- Enhanced Spam Filtering Coming Soon
- Academic Technology Spotlights - Two Stories for the Price of One!

So, lots to cover, welcome back to campus, and let's get to it ...!

Charting the Course for Replacing PeopleSoft

PeopleSoft is Wesleyan's enterprise system which stores the University's Human Resources, Benefits, Payroll, Finance, and Student data. Already older than our students (!), PeopleSoft is nearing end of support and constrains our ability to improve the user experience for students, faculty, and staff. As a

result, we have been evaluating its replacement since pre-pandemic, and staff from Human Resources, Finance, and Academic Affairs have been busy evaluating the two leading contenders: Workday and Oracle in the Cloud. A steering committee is overseeing the evaluation. Its members include: Joshua Berry, Lisa Brommer, Mark Hovey, Anne Laskowski, Steve Machuga, Chris Olt, Elise Springer, Karen Warren, and Michael Whitcomb. The new system will be selected by December, 2022, with implementation to begin in summer of 2023. The first systems implemented will be Human Resources, Payroll, Benefits, and Finance. Faculty oversight, data governance, integrations, and operational/analytic reporting will be included as integral parts of the implementation. Finally, implementation of the student/curricular modules will begin (likely) in Summer, 2025.

Hiring Updates

Since my last newsletter in April, we have hired five new staff (see below) and we have two open positions - one in Academic Technology and one in Enterprise Systems. We are delighted with the influx of new talent to our teams, and I encourage you to welcome these folks when you see them around campus:

Brian Gibeault - Senior Network Administrator, started May 23
Michael Stielau - Desktop Support Specialist, started June 6
Jorge Duarte - Instructional Media Specialist (Classroom Support), started June 16
Michael Hainer - Network Technician, started June 27
Alex O'Neill - Service Desk Manager, started September 6

For a complete list of ITS staff,
please visit https://www.wesleyan.edu/its/about/staff-list.html

Please verify/update your directory information in WesPortal

Last February, we shared with you information regarding legislation that required us to provide enhanced 911 capabilities. *911 Inform* alerts local emergency dispatchers as to the location of the building from which a 911 call was made. On a related note, Wesleyan does regularly tests its emergency

communication system (*Blackboard Connect*) to ensure that we can reach you via multiple means (phone, text, email) during a campus emergency.

Both systems rely on accurate location and phone information in your personal profile in WesPortal. While the campus has systems that maintain location data, the single best source of location information is you. Please take a minute to check your personal profile in WesPortal (My Information > Personal Profile) to verify your office location, campus extension and alternate numbers are current. This quick check will ensure that our campus directory, our enhanced 911 system, and our emergency communication information is accurate. Thanks!

ITS Self-Help Resources – Knowledge Base and LinkedIn Learning
Would you like to find a quick answer to an IT question or issue you are experiencing? Are you seeking to develop and enhance your knowledge or expertise on a specific subject, skill, or software application?

Check our searchable ITS Knowledge Base and LinkedIn Learning!

The ITS Knowledge Base can be accessed through WesPortal > ITS Help > Wesleyan ITS Knowledge Base. It is a great place to look for answers to frequently asked questions, how-to guides, and troubleshooting instructions. The Knowledge Base makes it easy for you to find solutions to many IT questions or problems without having to submit a ServiceNow ticket, and we regularly add new self-help content based on frequently asked questions and problems.

LinkedIn Learning is accessible via the top tool bar in WesPortal and allows you to search for self-paced instruction on over 16K+ industry expert-led courses in software/technology, creativity, and business skills. From Microsoft O365 applications and Microsoft Teams, designing in applications like Canvas, learning Apple Watch tips and tricks, project management, leadership skills, etc. LinkedIn Learning has a course for you!

Enhanced SPAM Filtering Coming Soon
ITS will be rolling out new spam filtering software this calendar year. This new

software will give individual users more control in identifying senders they either always or never want to receive email messages from via a "Personal Portal". When users receive messages that might be spam, the messages will be held in the Personal Portal and users will receive a digest email containing all of the flagged messages and links to either deliver or block those messages. These digests will be delivered shortly after 8am, noon, and 5pm, but only if a user has received new messages that might be spam.

ITS and a handful of pilot users have been using the software for several weeks. The software will be deployed to all staff in early October. While no disruptions are expected when this software is deployed, it will not be deployed to faculty and students until the Winter break to eliminate the chance of a disruption during the semester. If you have any questions, please send them to Joe Bazeley at jbazeley@wesleyan.edu.

Academic Technology Spotlights - Two Stories for the Price of One!

Digital Poster Sessions

It's not uncommon at the end of the semester for Wesleyan students to showcase their work, whether it be an exhibit in Zilkha Gallery, recitals in a theatre, or a poster session. However, the restrictions of the past years presented unique challenges to this tradition. One way in which faculty and students have overcome this has been through the development of digital exhibits. Instead of having the show or poster session in person, students share their work virtually on a website. Pioneered first by Ishita Mukerji and Manolis Kaparakis during the summer of 2020, this has become an increasingly popular way for students to showcase their work, from film classes to psychology classes.

One such class is Val Nazzaro's Applied Data Analysis class. Typically, the end of the semester poster session would invite data analysis professionals and alumni to Wesleyan to review and evaluate student work. Requiring students to effectively communicate their work to an external audience is the core of the class, and Nazzaro did not want to lose it. Working with academic technologist Alyssa Marinaccio, Nazzaro and her students created a WordPress website to serve as the backbone of their digital poster session where each students uploads their poster. Then, for the virtual live poster session, students create

their own Zoom meeting and link it to their digital poster, so the external audience can watch the student present their work and engage with them. "I feel like now that we're doing WordPress, I think I'd have trouble giving it up," Nazzaro explains. "Students like having a URL to reference for jobs. Also, now students can always see what other students have been doing, so it's like a historical record for the students of what their peers have done."

Digital Scholarship Fellows

At the beginning of May, our current cohort of digital scholarship fellows presented the projects that they have developed over the course of their fellowship. Our cohort included Shoko Narasaki '22, Florina Sutanto '24, and Ransho Ueno '23. Beginning in spring of 2021, the fellows worked with Rachel Schnepper and Francesca Baird, introducing them to digital scholarship and research methods for use in their scholarship, in their professional careers, and in everyday life. "I grew more confident in finding and working with various kinds of data," Narasaki told us. "The process of creating digital humanities projects opened up the creative side of myself that I did not even know existed, and it has been truly enjoyable and rewarding. The program sparked my interest in digital storytelling through data visualization, and I would highly recommend everyone to apply for the next cohort!"

Narasaki's project, Anti-Asian Hate in the United States (requires Wesleyan log-in), examines the history of anti-Asian prejudice in the United States since the late eighteenth century, culminating in the rise of violence against during the Covid-19 pandemic. Sutanto's project, Japan and the West: A Dictionary Over Time (requires Wesleyan log-in), is an investigation into the centuries long, contentious relationship the nation of Japan has had with the West. From the advent of Christianity to rapid military expansion in the face of two world wars, Japan and the western world have witnessed a long-spanning exchange of knowledge, art, medicine, sciences, technology, food, and entertainment, among many other spheres. This project traces this history by studying Japanese cognates in the English lexicon using Oxford English Dictionary's Timelines records. Ueno's project, Government and Public Health, aims to understand the correlation between political conditions and public health outcomes in Asia to examine what aspects of government would bring better population health in response to the recent COVID-19 pandemic and diverse health policies.

Finally, as a reward for reading this far, here is your Random Seasonal Lyric, celebrating the recent spectacular Harvest Moon we enjoyed in CT, from Neil Young's 1992 release of the same name:
"But there's a full moon risin'
Let's go dancin' in the light
We know where the music's playin'
Let's go out and feel the night
Because I'm still in love with you
I want to see you dance again
Because I'm still in love with you
On this harvest moon"

Best wishes for a smooth start to the fall semester. Please be in touch if you want more information on any of the above, or if you have suggestions for future topics, and thanks for reading!

Dave Baird
VP for IT & CIO