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Wesleyan University
Information Technology Services

Dear Colleagues:

As the students return from Spring Break, it's time to buckle down and finish the semester strong! And if you're not quite ready for that reality, why not procrastinate by consuming this edition of *News from the CIO*, featuring:

- Stellic - An improved course registration and degree management system
- Duo High Security Mode - Available Now
- Microsoft 365 Forms - Fast and Flexible
- Workday Team Conducts End to End Testing
- Classroom Upgrade Planning for New Construction
- Purchasing & ITS Deliver Presentation to CCPG

Off we go...

Stellic - An improved course registration and degree management system

At the request of the Registrar's Office and Academic Affairs, ITS is partnering to implement Stellic, a registration and degree management/audit system, which would replace Wesleyan's homegrown Major Certification and Pre-Registration systems.

Stellic software was designed by students for students, and their unique approach to the registration and degree audit processes will directly benefit students and significantly improve their experience with planning their coursework and pursuing their degrees. With advising features, "what-if" scenarios, progress tracking, and milestone markers, this software will completely change the student experience from

ITS looks forward to improving the student experience, reducing technical debt associated with the existing system, and enabling the Registrar and Class Deans to better support Wesleyan's students.

Duo High Security Mode - Available Now

Last month we talked about the dangers of "MFA fatigue". This month we present the high security version of Duo that can protect against MFA fatigue. For the high security version, instead of pushing an approve/deny question to your phone, your computer screen will display a 6-digit code that you need to type into your phone. So if a hacker was able to obtain your password, you would receive a notification but not have access to the 6-digit code so there is no way to accidentally approve the request. The high security group is also setup to remember Duo logins for 12 hours instead of 30 days to minimize how long a hacker can maintain access if they do somehow trick a high security user into entering the supplied 6-digit code. If you are interested in switching to the high security group please send a note to security@wesleyan.edu.

Microsoft 365 Forms - Fast and Flexible

Microsoft Forms is a simple, lightweight app which can be used to create digital surveys, quizzes, polls, and other types of data and information collecting forms within minutes. It can be used to collect feedback, plan and schedule activities, measure satisfaction, improve services, and more:

- Create surveys, quizzes, and polls, and easily see results as they come in.
- Collect responses to your form using any web browser or mobile device.
- Use built-in analytics to evaluate responses as they're submitted.
- Export Form data and results to Excel for additional analysis.

Access your Wesleyan Microsoft 365 account to start creating Forms today! To learn how to get started please visit Microsoft Forms: How to Create and Share Forms with Microsoft 365 in our ITS Knowledgebase.

Workday Team Conducts End to End Testing

Since February 5, those involved in the Workday project have been conducting end-to-end testing. This is a critical stage of the project where the functional areas (finance, HR, payroll) validate all the configuration done to verify that operations flow as expected. This work is tedious and time-consuming as issues arise, need to be addressed, then re-tested. For each area, there is a corresponding lead at our implementation partner, Accenture. ITS and Accenture folks work together daily to get this completed within the project timeline. Karen Warren has been testing coordinator serving as the logistics person scheduling sessions, elevating issues and constantly monitoring the testing dashboards. Everyone agonizes over the smallest of details trying to anticipate any problems that could arise or anything that might impact Wes community's experience using the platform. No doubt, there will be adjustments after the system goes live. However rest assured that the teams involved are wholly committed to its success. It shows every day.

Classroom Upgrade Planning for New Construction

Just because the new Frank Center for Public Affairs is up and running doesn't mean we are resting on our laurels. Far from it! We are already knee-deep in plans for New Science and the Wesleyan Integrated Arts Lab. When New Science is completed in 2026, it will have ten classrooms, including a computer lab and an active learning classroom, and nine teaching labs. Most of these spaces are being outfitted as Zoom Rooms and equipped to be AVoIP ready, allowing faculty to adapt and pivot their classes as need. For the arts, we have the Wesleyan Integrated Arts Lab (WIAL) underway at Hamlin Street. Current plans for WIAL include design, drawing, and movement studios, as well as a new performance space. We can't wait to see how these spaces transform Wesleyan, and we're excited to be a part of it!

Purchasing & ITS Deliver Presentation to CCPG

During the March Break, I had the pleasure of joining Olga Bookas (Director of Purchasing) and Ola Szopa (Class of '24) to present to the Connecticut Colleges Purchasing Group. We delivered a seminar on Software Negotiations

to save money on major software contracts. Along with my leadership team, I have learned a tremendous amount from Olga over the dozen years we have been working together. Everyone at Wesleyan has benefitted from our strong collaboration, so hats off to Olga!

Finally, as a reward for reading this far, here is your Random Seasonal Lyric... Last Sunday was St. Patrick's Day and I spent the day with the MPBA Pipes and Drums on our 11th annual pub crawl through Middletown, Portland, East Hampton and back again. And while you might not think of lyrics when you think of bagpipes, many of the traditional tunes you hear in parades do come from songs with lyrics. The English lyric below is from "The Mist-Covered Mountains of Home", a song written in 1856 by John Cameron and sung here in its original Scots Gaelic (Chì Mi Na Mòrbheanna) by the Rankin family of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia.

Hail to the mountains with summits of blue!
To the glens with their meadows of sunshine and dew.
To the women and the men ever constant and true,
Ever ready to welcome one home!

Until next time, 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

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