A year in review
by Debra Cronin, IT Director

It’s hard to believe that a year has gone by since my arrival. I suspect the adage ‘time flies when you are having fun’ might apply. One of our efforts is to create a newsletter to be sent out quarterly. We want to share the efforts of IT, and how those efforts are associated to the success of our students. I’ve always said there are no IT projects or initiatives, there are only College or District wide initiatives, and we in IT facilitate the technology components. In spite of our lack of resources, much has been accomplished this past year which you will read in the following articles. I’m fortunate to work with a great IT team at Malcolm X College. Everyone has pulled together, worked hard, and always gone above and beyond. I always want to know of your pain points, your thoughts on emerging technology and thoughts on how we can make the use of technology at Malcolm X more seamless and hassle-free. Please feel free to contact me at dcronin1@ccc.edu. Thank you for your support.

Students Benefit from Computer Sale
by Sydney Adams

On Friday September 20 and 27, 2013 the MXC Information Technology Group, held a used computer sale for all current students of City Colleges of Chicago. Over the two days, 110 desktops, 28 monitors and 30 laptops were sold to students. All desktops were outfitted with keyboard, mouse and computer cables. Students were very excited that they were able to take advantage of this great and affordable opportunity. It allowed us to place technology in the hands of our students who otherwise would be unable to afford. This was a first come, first serve sale that was advertised to run from 10am-12:00pm. MXC security stated that students started lining up as early as 6:30am. This was a great team effort and we would not have had such success without the assistance of Security and the Business Office. Students are already inquiring of the next sale which we hope to have sometime in FY15.
Faculty Blackboard Training
by Alonzo Rhoden

Blackboard training will be offered in two formats this spring:

- Face-to-face formats for hands-on learning, and assistance with faculty course sites.
- Online training offered every Monday thru the semester

Content to be covered includes: review of minimum requirements for Blackboard, overview of Blackboard, best practices, ‘The Grade Center’, and how to use Collaborate for hybrid and online classes.

For training schedules and more information, please contact Alonzo Rhoden arhoden1@ccc.edu.

Office 2013 being taught by CIS to our students
By Adebunmi Adeboje

At the request of our CIS Faculty, we have installed Office 2013 on all CIS faculty computers and in the CIS computer labs. Office 2013 will be taught commencing Spring 2014. We are also installing instances of Office 2013 in Academic Support Center and other areas for our students. This will allow our students to be exposed to relevant technology when they transfer or enter the workforce.

Office 2013 integrates tightly with SkyDrive, Microsoft’s cloud storage system, Skype, and provides personalized experience by providing your applications, settings and documents accessible when you need them.

Office 2013 has a new flat, minimalist and modern look. It is designed to run on mobile devices as well as Windows desktops. There are some differences in navigation; however, it is rather intuitive.

If faculty or staff are interested in having Office 2013 installed, please submit your request to the mxchelpdesk@ccc.edu.

We have also provided some helpful links to become familiar with Office 2013:


http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aZ_zULEJ-nE

How To Get Privacy Right

Here’s a news cycle to get used to: a story breaks about a big technology company doing something that sounds like an invasion of privacy; then there’s outrage, and either an apology or a denial. Sometimes a class-action suit follows. Then everything gets forgotten until another week or two passes, and the cycle renews. Privacy snafus are to social networks as violence is to football. The whole point of social networks is to share stuff about people that’s interesting, just as the whole point of football is to upend the guy with the ball. Every so often, someone gets paralyzed, which prompts us to add padding to the helmets or set new rules about tackling. Then we move on.

In mid-February, the social network Path was called out for pulling entire address books off users’ iPhones without permission. When Google announced changes to their privacy policies, thirty-six Attorneys General sent a letter to the company, laying out their grave concerns. A company called DataSift is working with Twitter to sell marketers access to the past two years of your tweets. Last week, Alexis Madrigal published a piece in The Atlantic in which he documented how a hundred and five companies had tracked his movements online during a typical day and a half of surfing.

Posted by Nicholas Thompson (March 5, 2012) Retrieved from: http://www.newyorker.com/online/blogs/culture/2012/03/how-to-get-privacy-right.html#ixzz1oS6PqYuI

Security by Obscurity. Don’t leave data or portable computing devices alone and in view.
Student Technology Advisory

Collaborating with Malcolm X

Students and SGA, a Student Technology Advisory Committee is being formed to provide students a ‘voice’ for student technology needs for both operational and strategic purposes here at Malcolm X Colleges. We want to provide students a forum where ideas can be collected and solicited from the student body.

A charter has been drafted and more information will be forthcoming as the committee membership is finalized.

I will also be working with faculty to form a similar committee from the perspective of faculty. Faculty have great ideas on strategic support issues as well as emerging technology. If there is an interest to serve on either committee, please contact me at dcronin1@ccc.edu or extension 7154.

Bruce K. Hayden Center for Performing Arts receives state of the art sound system upgrade

By Alex Ajishegiri

This past fall semester the Bruce K. Hayden Center for Performing Arts upgraded its outdated sound system. The system, which was installed in the mid 90’s by Bridgewater Sound, was industry standard at the time for student performances, dance/theater companies, local and national recording artists, and other external customers. The once state-of-the-art system no longer could replicate the audio quality required for these events.

The main areas that needed to be addressed in the design of the new PA system were: 1) being able to reinforce both spoken word and music applications (both live and recorded) accurately and intelligibly; 2) a mixing surface that will allow pre-set scenes to be saved and accommodate a minimum of 24 inputs/12 outputs; 3) be able to move into the new building; and last but not least 4) equip theater production students with tools that will allow them to compete at a professional level, but yet simple enough to learn and operate.

On Friday, December 13th, 2013, the new system was put to test at a production presented by Village Leadership Academy (VLA), an external event customer. VLA, a private elementary school, held its annual Winter Arts Exhibition where they reenacted the famous stage production “The Wiz.” One of the College’s Media Specialists assisted VLA’s technical director with setting proper levels at sound check and setting up the remote console control features on the school’s iOs device. When asked after the production how comfortable he felt, VLA’s technical director stated that everything worked well! The school’s Principal, Nikisha Hobbs, raved about how much of a difference there was in audio quality from last year’s theatre performance. Positive indications of great things to come!
**SMART Rooms Receive Makeovers**

By Alex Ajisegiri

During the winter break approximately 25 SMART classrooms received much needed upgrades to media projectors, computer hardware, and in some cases both. After analyzing SMART room request data compiled from the MXCHELPDESK, it was determined that a majority of the originally installed SMART rooms were swiftly approaching their life cycle. The first set of SMART rooms were installed during the ‘03-‘04 school year. As with almost anything that was created a decade ago, product technology has advanced dramatically.

Ten (10) classrooms/labs received new Panasonic PT-VW330 media projectors and a Logitech MK700/MK710 wireless keyboard/mouse. While the new wireless keyboard/mouse give instructors more freedom while giving presentations, the new projectors bring to life the information the instructors prepared for the students. The HD ready PT-VW330 provides 3,000 lumens of brightness, is equipped with a lamp that has a 5,000-hour replacement cycle, and has an original 3-layer air filter with a 6,000-hour filter replacement cycle. (no more annoying filter maintenance alerts after 100 hours). This low 0.48W (standby power consumption rating) Eco-friendly projector drastically reduces the labor and expenses that are typically attributed to periodic maintenance. Instructors can expect superb performance, quiet operation with intelligent lamp control, and minimal environmental impact.

Among the ten classrooms/labs that received a makeover are: Surgical Technology Classroom, Nephrology/Renal Tech lab, Respiratory Care Classroom, and Physicians Assistant Lab. An additional 15 classrooms on the 3rd floor received the Logitech MK700/MK710 keyboard/mouse set with hopes of replacing existing projectors in the coming months. There are also plans to install SMART technology for Rooms 0307, 2532, 3215 and 3322 this spring. For more information about the new upgrades or questions about how to properly utilize SMART room technology contact a Media Specialist at extension 3526 or Mxchelpdesk@ccc.edu

**SMART Training for Faculty**

By Sydney Adams

At the request of faculty, two SMART classroom training sessions were held last semester. Faculty were trained on how it’s possible to integrate the SMART board with the Microsoft Suite, and gain better student participation with these tools. It provides both faculty and students hands-on experience with collaborative and relevant technology. For some faculty, this was their first exposure to the SMART classroom.

More training is scheduled for Spring FY14. To schedule one-on-one or group training, please send a request to Mxchelpdesk@ccc.edu.
Student Loaner Laptop Program a Success
By Adebunni Adeboje

The Loaner Laptop Program has seen much success these past two semesters. We have often found students lined up outside sometimes two hours before doors open to ensure they are able to check out a laptop for the four week period. By the second week of the semester, most laptops are completely loaned out with a potential waiting list of over 10-20 students vying for the next laptop. Students can check out laptops from any of the seven CCC colleges. Unfortunately no waiting lists are available so issuance is on a first come first served basis. We revisit the policy district wide each semester to see how we can improve the program. It’s our hope to expand the number of laptops available to our students.

The laptops are provided with software applications to help students meet their educational objectives. The systems come installed with the Microsoft Office Suite, three browsers, and students also have full rights to install additional software to suit their needs.

“We need to move Malcolm X technology into the 21st century to equip our students with the tools they will need as they transfer to 4 year institutions or enter the workforce. One way to make this happen is to ensure our faculty/staff also have access to relevant technology.”

Windows 7 Update
By Brittany Thornton

Throughout the semester and the winter break, IT visited classrooms, labs and offices touching over 700 machines, to update users to Windows 7. This is a change that was long overdue. April 8, 2014 is the day that Microsoft ends support for Windows XP. This tells us we have less than six months to migrate all our desktop computers off XP, and move them to Win7 or Win8. We took great precaution in backing up user’s personal files to their U: drive. The first major difference that you will see is the look and feel; no need to worry, while most features have been moved around, they are still available.

IT is aware there remains users/systems that require Win XP due to specialty software. It is our recommendation that consideration be given to obtaining a newer version or solution that can be supported on Windows 7. IT would be happy to consult in selection of a new solution or ensure your choice is compatible with Win7.

To learn more about the changes from Windows XP to Windows 7, please access the following link: http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows7/products/features

(Note: to access your “U” drive, you must log in to your machine using your Novell credentials. Click on My Computer and then double click your “U” drive. For more assistance, feel free to contact IT @ mxchelpdesk@ccc.edu).
MXC IT Department

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312-850-7153

Direct A/V Line:
312-850-3526

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