Sakai Newsletter

September 7, 2006

1. 1st European Sakai Day is Underway

2. Sakai Foundation Board Elections

3. 6th Sakai Conference with OSP

4. Sakai Deployed for State of Rhode Island K-12

5. 2.3 QA Participation Call Out

6. Sakai at Educause

7. Unicon Extends Multi-Year Relationship with the Cisco Learning Institute

8. Article in Campus Technology: "Electronic Student Assessment -- The Power of the Portfolio"

9. IU Training and User Support Materials Available to Sakai Community

10. Seattle University Expands Unicon's Academus Portal Integrating Student Communications and .Net Services

11. Programmer Positions at Yale University

12. Events

---

1. 1st European Sakai Day is Underway

Follow Sakai Day events and activities on the Dutch Sakai News and Opinions blog: http://sakai-nl.blogspot.com/   Excerpts from Day #1:

We are in Luebeck right now

The European Sakai Days have just officially started. There is a great audience of about 100 people. Even people from Africa have taken the effort to come over. Prof Dr Rolf Granow is delivering his talk right now.

Looking back

In his keynote address at the European Sakai Day in Lubeck, Chuck Severance took the audience on a history ride. Going back to the days before the Sakai project started he provided the listeners with the reason why the collaborative effort of all the universities that are working together in the Sakai Foundation provide them with true control of their destiny.

Being an eloquent speaker Chuck told about the route the people had planned in past, the detours, the undiscovered "lands" and the sometimes difficult decisions that had to be made.

To download the slides from Chuck Severance's presentation, go to this site: http://www.dr-chuck.com/talks.php?id=79

Lubeck, Valencia and Porto

In the title of this post you will find the universities that delivered their presentations Wednesday afternoon over here in Lubeck.

Lubeck is a very interesting case, you could say. Under the Oncampus brand, they are delivering mostly distance learning programs (80% distance, 20% f2f) using Sakai. They depend heavily on online content in their network of partners around the Baltic Sea.

Valencia is another special case. They need to provide their ICT tools in two languages, Spanish and Catalan. This is why they did some work in realizing this in Sakai.

The last presentation was by our colleagues from Fernando Pessoa (Porto, Portugal). They had a lot of the same issues we have encountered in our preparation for our pilots. But also they created some provisional tools that we are deploying right now in our pilots, such as Site Stats.

You can also visit the 1ˢᵗ European Sakai Day Conference site at: http://www.oncampus.de/sakai

2. Sakai Foundation Board Elections

The Sakai Elections Work Group is pleased to announce the opening of nominations for three positions on the Sakai Foundation Board of Directors. Chuck Severance now serves in the position of Executive Director and therefore an ex officio member of the Board. The current terms for Joseph Hardin (University of Michigan), and Lois Brooks (Stanford) expire in December. Previous board members are eligible to stand for re-election.

The Sakai Foundation is dedicated to the design and development of collaborative, open source software in support of education, research and related scholarly activities. The Board of Directors provides leadership for the Sakai Foundation by serving the interests of the entire Sakai community, promoting the objectives of the Sakai Foundation, representing and coordinating Foundation projects, ensuring that project management is consistent with the Foundation's mission, and that the Foundation operates within its fiscal resources.

The Board of Directors meets in person at least twice a year at such times and places as designated by the Chair. Board members are expected to attend bi-weekly audio conferences and regularly conduct Board business electronically. Board members are not compensated for their work but expenses will be reimbursed in line with Foundation policies. Nominees will be expected to confirm that their institutional leadership approves of this commitment of time if elected.

Board members shall serve for a term of three years. Board members may serve only two consecutive terms. More detailed information about the Sakai Foundation and the responsibilities of the Board of Directors can be found in the Bylaws of the Sakai Foundation.

Nominations must be emailed to: sakaiproject_elections@umich.edu no later than 5:00 PM EDT (GMT-4) on Saturday, September 30, 2006. Anyone can be nominated to stand for election to the Board. Self-nominations are also allowed. Receipt of any nomination you submit will be confirmed. The Elections Work Group will notify all nominees, explain the expectations for board members and confirm their willingness and ability to run for election. If they agree, additional information about them will be solicited.

Board members will be elected by the institutional and corporate representatives as specified in the Sakai Foundation bylaws. A current list of institutional and corporate representatives has been posted at:

http://sakaiproject.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=104&Itemid=203 #reps

The election is scheduled to be conducted online in early November with results announced in early December.

Thank you very much for helping us present the most qualified slate of candidates. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Carl Jacobson
Sakai Elections WG

---

3. 6th Sakai Conference with OSP

Join us for the 6th Sakai Conference with OSP, December 5 – 8, 2006, in Atlanta, Georgia.

Once again we will bring the Sakai community together to share experiences, implementations and vision. Each Sakai conference brings an increasing number of campus production and pilot implementations and a number of new contributions, tools and partnerships.

As with previous conferences, sessions will be devoted to the future of the Sakai codebase, Sakai governance, and the integration of other community source projects such as OSP (the Open Source Portfolio). We also hope to continue to increase the number of conference sessions that focus on teaching and learning, eResearch, and other related projects, such as OpenCourseWare (OCW), the Open Knowledge Initiative (OKI,) the IMS Global Learning Consortium, and much more. And, as always, you can create a BOF (Birds of a Feather meeting) on the topic of most importance to you.

Come join us in celebrating the achievements of the Sakai Community and work with us to create the innovative, open, community source future.

REGISTRATION – Registration for the 6th Sakai Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, is open. To register, go to: https://sakaiproject.org/conference/registration/

LOGO CONTEST – The logo contest entry form is now available. You can view logo ideas at: https://sakaiproject.org/conference/logos

To add your own idea, click **Submit New Entry**.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS -- The deadline for submitting a proposal for the Atlanta Conference is September 30th. To submit a proposal for a Presentation or a Technical Demo go to: https://sakaiproject.org/conference/proposals/

4. Sakai Deployed in Production for State of Rhode Island K-12

The rSmart Group deployed a customized version of Sakai using the Goal Management Tool for production use by 25 schools in 20 school districts in the State of Rhode Island. In this first phase of a multi-year project, 25,000 students in grades 9-12 will use the Sakai CLE to demonstrate evidence of meeting graduation requirements, which are mapped to state and local standards through the Goal Management Tool developed at Syracuse University.

This fall a graduation portfolio and reporting will extend the implementation using OSP.

5. 2.3 QA Participation Call Out

The 2.3 QA cycle will begin after integration week (around Sept 18) and the Foundation is seeking people that can participate in this effort.

Of importance is getting adequate testing coverage for the OSP test suite. The OSP QA effort has been somewhat separate from Sakai's, but we're working towards changing that! For instance, all open items have been migrated from the OSP JIRA into the Sakai JIRA. You may be asking yourself, "What are the changes for OSP 2.3?" According to the development team, 2.3 will consist of bug fixes.

Details of changes for all components can be found at:

http://bugs.sakaiproject.org/confluence/display/MGT/Sakai+Project+Management+and+Coordination

If you will have any time available, please sign up on the 2.3 Release page at: http://bugs.sakaiproject.org/confluence/display/QA/2.3+Release or send me a quick e-mail. If you are new to QA, there is a quick Sakai QA FAQ that I'd recommend reading to ensure you have all the accounts and access you'll need (for instance, the permissions to close JIRA items).

I'm looking forward to working with familiar faces alongside new ones! Please know that any amount of time you have is worthwhile. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to speak up!

Megan May
mmmay@indiana.edu
Sakai QA Director

---

6. Sakai at Educause

At the upcoming Educause conference in Dallas, Texas from October 9-12 (http://educause.edu/e06), several members of the Sakai community will be presenting sessions, including:

• "Campus-Wide Open Source: Principles for Successful Implementation" with Nate Angell and Wende Morgaine from Portland State University

• "Open Source/Community Source Strategy" with Lois Brooks from Stanford

• "Haute Software: Juggling Open-Source and Vendor Software" with Kim Gausepohl and Jeshua Pacifici from Virginia Tech

• "Implementing a Community Source Course Management System" with Rob Lowden and Elizabeth Van Gordon from Indiana University

• "Innovating with Sakai at Small and Midsized Colleges: Leveraging Partnerships and Resources" with Joshua Baron from Marist College

Hope to see you in Dallas!

Wende Morgaine
Portland State University
wendemm@gmail.com

---

7. Unicon Extends Multi-Year Relationship with the Cisco Learning Institute

Unicon, Inc. has announced the extension of its multi-year partnership with the Cisco Learning Institute. Since the formation of the Cisco Learning Institute (CLI) in 1999 by Cisco Systems, Unicon has partnered with CLI to provide help desk, network operation, and software platform support activities for their partners.

"Unicon recognizes, and values, the trust CLI has placed in Unicon by renewing our ongoing partnership in support of CLI's partner programs," stated Kyle Thornton, Vice President of Professional Services for Unicon, Inc. "Our relationship with CLI started with the founding of the Institute in 1999, and continues on to this day. Unicon prides itself on delivering quality professional services to our clients, and our teams are looking forward to working with CLI during the upcoming year."

Core support functions of this, and past agreements, include the operation of a 24-hours a day, 365-days a year Help Desk that supports CLI's partner instructors and students with training and support on program systems and processes. Unicon will staff CLI's partner network operations center that supports application monitoring and software application maintenance for the suite of applications comprising the program. In addition, Unicon will staff resources dedicated to software engineering, project management and release management of the software dedicated to delivering curriculum and assessment content throughout CLI's partner programs.

About Cisco Learning Institute

Cisco Learning Institute (CLI) was founded in 1999 to enhance the way people teach and learn by integrating and advancing educational technology. CLI is a nonprofit public benefit corporation committed to partnerships and solutions for institutions to improve their ability to use technology. Initially funded by Cisco Systems, the Institute promotes the effective, appropriate use of technology to advance learning. CLI is committed to overcoming the issues of access, awareness and affordability in utilizing technology to demonstrate that it is an essential tool in 21st century education and plays a key role in solving the larger problems that impact learning today. CLI provides forward -- thinking organizations with innovative solutions and expertise needed to meld technology, education, and training. As a nonprofit organization, we build sustainability by bringing the best practices learned from the support of our partners to other schools, colleges and universities.

More information about Unicon, Inc. and Academus Open Campus is available at: www.unicon.net and www.academusopencampus.com

---

8. Article in Campus Technology: Electronic Student Assessment -- The Power of the Portfolio

By Matt Villano

They're not just evaluation tools anymore. Savvy educators are seeing endless ways to exploit the power of the ePortfolio — and you can, too.

Electronic Student Assessment at Bentley College (MA), the interdisciplinary Liberal Studies program has undergone quite a makeover: Educators there have completely revamped the way in which they assess student performance in class. For years, the process was "old school" -- students were required to submit all work in person, printing out assignments on paper, stapling them, and handing them over to professors upon request. These days, however, the school handles assessment with next generation ePortfolio tools that enable students and teachers to exchange assignments electronically.

What's so interesting, though, is that the technology is the architecture of the major itself, acting as the mechanism by which curricular objectives are supported and measured. Barbara Palmer, dean for information resources, says that faculty members designing the major had ePortfolios in mind from the get-go. On one level, the technology evaluates individual success. Collectively, however, the ePortfolios can be mined to get a sense of overall program quality. What's more, because the Bentley program requires a great deal of student self-reflection and faculty adviser feedback, Palmer says the ePortfolios have become source material by which to gauge the value of the faculty-student interaction. "This initiative seeks to increase students' ability to integrate learning and to make connections," she reports. "We expect to use [ePortfolios] to evaluate our capacity to deliver on our curricular promises."

To see the rest of the article, go to:

http://www.campus-technology.com/article.asp?id=19135&p=1

(Don't miss the callout box on OSP on Page 2.)

---

9. Indiana University Training and User Support Materials Available to Sakai Community

Indiana University has recently made available to the Sakai community a collection of user support materials and training resources developed to support 90,000 IU faculty and students during their transition to IU's instance of Sakai, OncourseCL. The materials include a number of Flash video tutorials of Oncourse CL features; helpful documents for course instructors, titled "Least You Need to Know"; and self-study materials targeted for students, instructors, and other site owners who like to learn on their own. Other resources available in the repository include training workshop schedules, an interactive "readiness survey," a tool comparison document and contact information for both the university's teaching and learning centers and its IT training and education groups. The frequently-updated list of materials may be found at: http://oncourse.iu.edu/training-support.

IU's technology leaders hope the resources will be helpful to others who are implementing Sakai. "We are very happy to make these materials available to the Sakai community," said Elizabeth Van Gordon, director of learning technology operations and lead for Oncourse CL support at IU. "We hope our partners will benefit from having direct access to resources that are the result of nearly two years of user support for Sakai at IU."

"Indiana University values its commitment to Community Source as well as its commitment to providing excellent support for teaching and learning," according to Garland C. Elmore, IU associate vice president for teaching and learning technologies. "Making these resources available for use or repurposing by the Sakai community evidences our commitments," he said.

The materials are licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 2.5 License, which enables others to copy, distribute, display, make derivative works or commercial use of the materials as long as Indiana University is given attribution as original author. A summary of the license may be found at: http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.5/

The materials are developed by IU's IT Training & Education group, which delivers training to more than 30,000 participants each year across all Indiana University campuses through instructor-led workshops and self-study training resources. The program has won several awards for its materials and services from the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Special Interest Group on University and College Computing Service (SIGUCCS).

---

10. Seattle University Expands Unicon's Academus Portal Integrating Student Communications and .Net Services

Open Source-Based Portal Used to Provide Unified Branding Presence for Online Campus

Unicon, Inc. has announced that Seattle University successfully expanded the capacity and capabilities of Unicon's Academus Web Portal application for its online campus. Seattle University has been using Academus since 2004, but recently added and integrated significant new technologies to its MySU portal in time for returning students this fall. The site features and integrates key Microsoft applications .Net, Active Directory, and Outlook Web Access, along with WebAdvisor from Datatel.

The MySU portal allows students to register for classes, pay tuition, and access essential services such as email, Degree Audit, Class Schedules, the University's Learning Management System and the campus calendar via their personal portal account. Portal administrators can control user access via assigned roles and permissions to provide a high level of privacy where needed. Unicon's Academus Portal provides a branded,

unified presence and secure, centralized framework for integrating these diverse applications, platforms, and services.

"Seattle University selected Unicon's Academus Portal because of its features, functionality, and flexibility," stated Don Sullivan, director of Administrative Computing and Web Services at Seattle University. "We were looking for an out-of-the-box solution and Academus was easy to bring in, affordable, and had proven production implementations with other institutions."

About Seattle University

Seattle University, founded in 1891, is a Jesuit Catholic university located on 48 acres on Seattle's Capitol Hill. More than 7,000 students are enrolled in undergraduate and graduate programs within eight schools. U.S. News and World Report's "Best Colleges 2007" ranks Seattle University among the top 10 schools in the West that offer a full range of masters and undergraduate programs.

11. Programmer Positions at Yale University

Yale University has two new programmer positions in our Academic Media & Technology unit. The focus of these positions is the development of teaching and learning tools that integrate with Yale's Sakai-based learning management system Classes v2: http://classesv2.yale.edu

For details, please contact the hiring manager Michael Appleby, michael.appleby@yale.edu

12. Events

Educause 2006
October 9 - 12, 2006
Dallas, Texas
http://educause.edu/e06

Unicon's Sakai Developer Training with Mark Norton October 16 - 18, 2006 in Chandler, Arizona
For more information or to register for the workshop, visit the training section of www.unicon.net

6th Sakai Conference
December 5 - 8, 2006
Atlanta Marriott Marquis
Atlanta, Georgia
sakaiproject.org

LAMS Conference 2006
First International Learning Activity Management System (LAMS)
Conference December 6 - 8, 2006
Conservatorium of Music
University of Sydney
http://lamsfoundation.org/lams2006/index.htm