



## Sakai Newsletter

November 29, 2007

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### 1. From the Executive Director

I'm pleased to announce the results of the recent elections for the Sakai Foundation Board of Directors. The new board members are Lance Speelmon from Indiana University and Josh Baron from Marist College. Jutta Treviranus was also re-elected to another term. Please join me in offering congratulations to all of them.

Most of you know Lance from his extensive work in the Sakai community at one of the founding (and largest) Sakai institutions. His experience and expertise will certainly be valued by me, the Sakai Foundation staff and the other members of the Board of Directors. Truth be told, we already rely on his insights and advice, and it's terrific that we're able to force him to meet with us on a regular basis. Thank you, Lance, for offering to serve the community in yet another capacity.

If you've been following the pedagogy discussions, the work to get Sakai running on the IBM stack, or conversations about running Sakai at smaller Liberal Arts schools, then you'll probably have encountered Josh. Given that most of the current and past board members come from large enrollment and/or research institutions, I know we will value the diversity in perspective that Josh will bring. I also think his focus on teaching and learning marks the increasing importance of this voice in determining community priorities. Welcome, Josh, we all look forward to working more closely with you.

I'm also very pleased to have the advice and counsel of Jutta. Beyond the important contributions she has made as an individual, her reelection underscores the strong relationship between Sakai and the Fluid Project, for which she serves as principal investigator. Welcome back, Jutta!

Finally, I want to thank all the candidates who participated and give special recognition to Carl Jacobson from the University of Delaware who (again) ran the elections process on behalf of the Foundation. We appreciate it, Carl.

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## 2. The 8th Sakai Conference Begins Tuesday, December 4

To date, over 400 participants have registered for this winter's conference. Among these are developers, pedagogists, designers, faculty, students, user experience, technical and user support specialists, system administrators, educational and collaborative technology managers, and those interested in seeing what the Sakai community and software are all about

### WHAT WILL HAPPEN AT THE CONFERENCE?

On December 3, there will be several pre-conference workshops:

- Introduction to Sakai
- Introduction to OSP
- Pedagogy
- U-Camp
- Programmer's Café

More on the U-Camp: The goal for this edition of the U-Camp's is to foster greater user experience collaboration. The full-day workshop will include a combination of talks and hands-on workshops providing effective techniques for creating more usable and inclusive user interfaces. Morning workshop topics will focus on User Experience Topics such as: "How to do a UX Walkthrough" and "How to do a contextual inquiry." The

afternoon session will focus on team collaboration with the Programmer's Cafe on several design problems in Sakai.

During the main conference, there will be two keynote speeches:

- Dr. Joel Thierstein J.D., Ph.D., the Executive Director of Connexions and Associate Provost of Rice University, Houston, Texas
- Dr. Bob Sutor, Ph.D., the Vice President of Open Source and Standards for the IBM Corporation

The conference sessions will fall into the following tracks:

- Building Sakai:
- Deploying Sakai
- Using Sakai
- Multiple Audiences (general interest topics)
- Sakai Showcase

Things will wind up December 7 with post-conference workshops:

- Faculty Training Session
- Administrative Training Session

There will also be many BOFs (birds of a feather meet-ups) throughout the conference, as well as technical demos.

## HOW YOU CAN FOLLOW ALONG

-- Log onto [planetsakai.org](http://planetsakai.org). This is a collection of over 25 blogs by members of the Sakai Community. You'll see a lot of activity on this site during the conference.

-- Go to <https://sakai.educonference.com/conference/index.php>, the conference's official website.

-- Watch the conference website for announcements both during and after the conference about session podcasts.

## QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CONFERENCE?

-- Contact Mary Miles, [mmiles@umich.edu](mailto:mmiles@umich.edu)

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### 3. Updates on Community Interest/Utilization of OSP

Hello everyone --

In preparation for the upcoming Newport Beach conference as well as in an attempt to better determine larger OSP interest and utilization in the community, we'd like to

compile an updated listing of how various institutions and groups are in fact using OSP, and to what level (i.e. production environment, early pilots, etc.). If you could take a moment and respond here with the following information, it would be greatly appreciated. In turn, I will compile and share back to the larger community.

- Your Institution (or group/institution you are supporting)?
- Version of OSP being utilized?
- Production or pilot utilization?
- Number of users?
- Also implementing larger Sakai CMS (and in production or pilot mode)?
- Brief summary notes (few sentences) on focus of implementation?

Many thanks,

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#### 4. Jforum 2.4.1 is Now Available

JForum 2.4.1 is now available for Sakai 2.3 or Sakai 2.4.

There are no major or critical issues here. Jforum 2.4 is solid, but we wanted to take care of a few small issues, prior to moving onto grading of discussions (2.5).

Follow the instructions below to download and build Jforum 2.4.1.

##### 1) Get the Source

Get the Sakai JForum source and place it at sakai source folder. You can get Sakai JForum source from the Sakai contrib SVN. To get Sakai JForum from SVN, issue the below SVN commands from your Sakai source folder:

```
svn co  
https://source.sakaiproject.org/contrib/foothill/sakai-jforum/tags/jforum\_2-4-1 sakai-jforum
```

##### 2) Build and Deploy Sakai JForum

a. New Installations: Refer to readme.txt under readme folder.

b. Upgrade Instructions for existing MySQL users: See [readme\\_upgrade\\_2.3\\_2.4.txt](#)

Jforum 2.4.1 -- Fixes

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- JFSI-238 - Add pagination in Member Listing for large sites (30 per page)
  - JFSI-186 - You shouldn't be able to email or PM inactive users
  - JFSI-453 - Turning off persistence wipes out menu options in Jforum
  - JFSI-456 - Member listing doesn't show the new users when clicked on first time
  - JFSI-265 - Posting new topic with subject and no body refreshes the page.
  - JFSI-449 - Reply only icon in group forums is not correct
  - JFSI-378 - Change in avatar is not accepted in some cases
  - JFSI-200 - Any admin user should be able to access the tool.
  - JFSI-455 - Integrating indexes that are added or updated for mysql databases
  - JFSI-447 - Avoid copying of dependency files to maven repository
  - JFSI-351 - Change the data type from MEDIUMINT to INT/BIGINT for tables like `jforum_posts`
  - JFSI-441 - Modify the data type for column `forum_id` in the table `jforum_forums` and cleaning dependency libraries
  - JFSI-454 - Trivial - misspelling in Error message

Questions? Contact [etudes-dev@foothill.edu](mailto:etudes-dev@foothill.edu) or [sakai-dev@sakaiproject.org](mailto:sakai-dev@sakaiproject.org)

Vivie Sinou  
Dean, Learning Technology  
ETUDES Project  
Foothill College

<http://etudesproject.org/>

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## 5. 2007 EDUCAUSE Conference Podcasts are Available

EDUCAUSE has released its first batch of podcasts from the recent conference in Seattle, Washington. Mine hasn't appeared yet, but you can find podcasts from Lance Speelmon (Indiana University), Per Wising (Stockholm University) and Alex Wirth-Cauchon (NITLE) at <http://connect.educause.edu/browse/content/node/691%2C5576%2C935>

They are definitely worth listening to. You've got just enough time to download them for the flight to Newport Beach.

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## 6. From rSmart: Free Hands-on Sakai Training at Cerritos

Cerritos College and rSmart invite you to attend a free Sakai training on Friday, December 7.

The training will be held at Santa Ana College. Bus transport from the conference hotel will be provided.

Schedule:

9 am -12 pm - Faculty Training

Lunch provided

1 pm - 5 pm - Functional Administrator Training

For more information, see an rSmart or Cerritos College representative, or email [info@rsmart.com](mailto:info@rsmart.com).

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## 7. From rSmart: New OSP Community Website to Launch

On November 30, the Open Source Portfolio community will be launching its new website. (See <http://osportfolio.org>.)

The site, which is hosted by rSmart, was built through the voluntary contributions of Nate Angel (rSmart), Noah Botimer (U. of Michigan), Will Trillich (Serensoft), Erik Scull (IUPUI) and Sean Kessler (Syracuse).

A sneak preview of the site can be found here: <http://new.osportfolio.org/> (Log-in using your Sakai Conference website credentials.)

The new site contains a community library with samples of OSP data structures. We will be building upon content here over the next year and encouraging schools using OSP to contribute material to the community library.

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## 8. Upcoming ePortfolio Conferences at LaGuardia and Eastern Connecticut State

Call for Papers and Presentations for "Making Connections: ePortfolios, Integrative Learning & Assessment"

April 11 and 12, 2008

LaGuardia Community College

City University of New York  
Deadline for Proposals: Dec. 10, 2007

Electronic Student Portfolios have gained wide popularity in higher education as a way to document, enhance, and assess learning and teaching. Universities around the world use ePortfolio to help students reflect upon and create digital portraits of their evolving identities as learners. And as the political debate over assessment and accountability heats up, college educators have found new ways to use ePortfolio to examine the learning/teaching process.

LaGuardia Community College, CUNY, has emerged as an international ePortfolio leader, with a successful ePortfolio project that not only supports assessment but also helps engage more deeply with learning. While many colleges have piloted ePortfolio, LaGuardia has achieved broad implementation (see <http://www.eportfolio.lagcc.cuny.edu>). Working with thousands of poor and minority students, LaGuardia's data show deeper engagement in learning and improved student learning outcomes.

Join LaGuardia faculty, students, and ePortfolio staff on April 11 and 12, 2008, to share your ePortfolio insights and shape this emerging field. LaGuardia invites proposals for presentations, roundtables and workshops. The proposal deadline is Dec. 10, 2007. Key conference themes include:

-- ePortfolio and Integrative Pedagogy: What does it mean to teach with ePortfolio? What pedagogies help students use ePortfolio to connect their learning across classes and semesters, and build new identities as learners? How do faculty gain when their students build ePortfolios?

-- ePortfolio Technology, Software and Tech Support: What makes a good ePortfolio system? What about Open Source software? What kinds of tech support are needed? How can ePortfolio integrate new Web 2.0 and social networking functions?

-- Holistic Assessment w/ ePortfolio: What new institutional assessment strategies does ePortfolio support? What data can it generate? What are the challenges of such assessment processes?

-- ePortfolio and Student Learning: How does ePortfolio affect students? What does your data tell us about the impact of ePortfolio on student learning? What do students say it means to them? From a student perspective, what makes ePortfolio interesting? Fun? Challenging? Valuable?

-- Beyond The Classroom: How can ePortfolio enhance the entire college experience? How do students use it in co-curricular activities? For transfer and employment? To connect with families?

-- ePortfolio and Diversity: LaGuardia students are predominantly immigrant, minority, and first-generation college goers. How does ePortfolio function with different students? How can ePortfolio help us better understand the meaning of diversity in higher education?

-- Making Reflection Work: At ePortfolio score is a process of reflective learning. What is meaningful reflection? How does it affect students? How do faculty help students become more reflective?

Sponsored by LaGuardia's National Center on Inquiry and Reflection, the Making Connections conference welcomes proposals for presentations, roundtables, and workshops. Sessions will be 45 and 75 minutes in length (including time for discussion). Proposals for hands-on workshops are welcome, as are proposals that showcase cross-institutional collaborations and/or present student voices.

Deadline for Proposals: Dec. 10, 2007

For More Information, go to: <http://www.eportfolio.lagcc.cuny.edu/cfpapers.html>

#### ePortfolio Conference Call for Proposals

Deadline: February 1, 2008

With support from the Davis Educational Foundation, the CTDL (Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium) and NERCOMP are teaming up to offer a conference on ePortfolios. The conference, which will take place March 28th at Eastern Connecticut State University, is titled "ePortfolios: Breakthroughs and Quandaries." We invite proposals for the following types of sessions:

- Workshops – "how to do something"
- Presentations – "how I/we did something"
- Roundtables – "let's talk about"
- Showcases – here's my (student/faculty/staff) ePortfolio, Project, or Portfolio assignments
- Research – "this is what I learned about"

Our goal is for the conference to consider ePortfolios from a range of perspectives -- students and faculty; faculty and assessment staff; advisors and faculty, technology and student services, etc. Based on past experience, workshops that include students and student work are particularly powerful. We also seek presentations on a range of ePortfolio use scenarios: academic, personal, and professional.



To submit a proposal, please download and complete the form located at:  
<http://www.ctdlc.org/eportfolio-conference-call-for-proposals.doc> and email it to  
[dgoldsmith@ctdlc.org](mailto:dgoldsmith@ctdlc.org) by Friday, February 1.

Questions can be addressed to:

Diane J. Goldsmith  
[dgoldsmith@ctdlc.org](mailto:dgoldsmith@ctdlc.org)

Gail Matthews-DeNatale  
[gmdenatale@simmons.edu](mailto:gmdenatale@simmons.edu)

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## 9. OpenEAI Seminar at the Sakai Conference -- Integrating Sakai with Key Enterprise Applications Using OpenEAI

The OpenEAI Software Foundation, a non-profit corporation organized to develop and promote open source enterprise application integration, has announced two of its senior members will give a technical presentation on the subject of integrating the Sakai Collaboration and Learning Environment with the OpenEAI Enterprise Service Bus at the Sakai Winter Conference 2007 being held December 4-7, 2007 in Newport Beach, California. The presentation will cover the OpenEAI Service Oriented Architecture approach and methodology towards integrating Sakai with key applications such as ERP, SIS (student information systems) and others. More information on the conference is available at: [www.sakaiproject.org](http://www.sakaiproject.org).

OpenEAI Presentation Details - Sakai Winter 2007 Conference Track: Deploying Sakai: This track covers the technical aspects of Sakai enterprise development--requirements analysis, design, code, quality assurance, documentation and release management--hold center stage in this track. User experience design, scalability and performance, interoperability, development and presentation frameworks, programming best practices, and testing strategies are but a few of the many topics to be discussed and debated.

OpenEAI Seminar Title: "Sakai Integrations using OpenEAI Enterprise Service Bus"  
When: Thursday, December 6, 2007 from 3:10 p.m. to 4:10 p.m. (PDT) Where: Cardiff Room - Newport Beach Marriot, Newport Beach, CA

Abstract: Sakai implementers have needs and requirements to integrate Sakai with the student information system, identity management system, ERP system, and others. This seminar presents the OpenEAI approach to SOA that has been applied to Sakai to implement these integrations.

Presenters: Stephen Wheat, Director of Enterprise Architecture and Chief Technology Officer for Administrative IT at the University of Illinois. Co-founder of OpenEAI Software Foundation.

Tod Jackson, Enterprise Architecture Specialist for Administrative IT at the University of Illinois. Co-founder of OpenEAI Software Foundation.

To learn more about OpenEAI, the Foundation, and the Project, go to [www.OpenEAI.org](http://www.OpenEAI.org)

Joe Waldygo  
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## 10. Recent Email Group Discussions

Here are some topics that have been discussed in the last couple of weeks in Sakai email groups. Most of these discussions can be found at these Nabble URLs:

- Sakai-dev - <http://www.nabble.com/Sakai---Development-f18040.html> (DEV)
- Sakai Portfolio - <http://www.nabble.com/Sakai---Portfolio-f18155.html> (PORT)
- Sakai Pedagogy - <http://www.nabble.com/Sakai---Pedagogy-f24248.html> (PED)
- Sakai UI - <http://www.nabble.com/Sakai---User-Interaction-f25634.html> (UI)
- Sakai Migration - <http://www.nabble.com/Sakai-Migration-Group-f27621.html> (MIG)
- Sakai Announcements - <http://www.nabble.com/Sakai---Announce-f28489.html> (ANN)

To join an email group, go to <http://www.collab.sakaiproject.org>. While you are in your workspace, click the "Membership" link in the left-hand menu and then click the "Joinable Sites" link. Click "Join" next to any of the groups.

Discussions:

- Building Framework DEV
- Custom CSS in a site's FCKEditors PORT
- Freeform + keyword, description PORT
- Melete & JForum Roadmap - Releases SAKAI USER
- Membership of Large Numbers of Sites DEV
- Mneme and assessment 'part' information DEV
- PermGen space errors -- solved? DEV
- Removing users from Sites via SQL. (how? best practice?) DEV
- SAK-8315 update: Component Manager Configuration DEV
- Sakai-demo under windows, start-sakai.bat hang DEV
- Tomcat Container Startup DEV

- UMD - critical issues with authz and logging EVAL, DEV
- User Cannot see scores of the assessments taken by students by admin DEV, SAKAI USER, UI

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## 11. Events

8th Sakai Conference Newport Beach Marriott  
December 4-7, 2007 Newport Beach, California, USA  
<https://sakai.educonference.com/conference/index.php>

e-Learning 2008  
February 16-19, 2008 St. Petersburg, Florida, USA  
<http://www.itcnetwork.org/elearning2008.htm>

eLearning Africa 2008  
May 28 - 30, 2008 Accra International Conference Centre Accra, Ghana  
<http://www.elearning-africa.com>

Portal 2008 "Measurement & Assessment"  
Conference Gettysburg College  
June 3-6, 2008 Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, USA  
<https://biz.gettysburg.edu/it/portal08/index.cfm>