



## Sakai Newsletter

December 13, 2007

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1. From the Executive Director

--- The Sakai Conference in Newport Beach

Last week in Newport Beach we wrapped up another in a series of very successful Sakai Conferences. There were 400 attendees from all corners of the globe (except Antarctica, although the Linux Penguin was spotted in various places, if that counts). The weather cooperated, with rain on the Fridays before and after the conference, which only served to emphasize the warm California sunshine during the week.

I want to thank everyone who worked on the conference, from the Sakai conference staff (Mary Miles, Pam Dietz, Susan Hardin) to the track leads (Aaron Zeckoski, Mike Osterman, Anthony Whyte, Josh Baron, Beth Kirschner, Peter Knoop and Tony Atkins)

to the support organizations that helped us out (the Hamilton Group and 2 Fast 4 Wireless). A special thank you to Cerritos Community College for providing local support and intelligence, including restaurant advice and timely surf condition reports.

I also want to thank Joel Thierstein from the Connexions project ([www.cnx.org](http://www.cnx.org)) and Bob Sutor from IBM (<http://www.sutor.com/newsite/blog-open/>) for giving excellent, relevant keynote speeches. Recordings of their presentations are available in the conference wiki space, and we hope to get their slides posted soon. In fact, all of the conference sessions have wiki pages, and you can find the list at:

<http://confluence.sakaiproject.org/confluence/x/BQBm>

Which reminds me. If you're a presenter, please upload your presentation materials (slides, handouts, whatever) to the appropriate wiki page. This is really important for those who weren't able to attend the conference and quite valuable for those who were. It takes just a minute, so please do it now while you're thinking about it.

Which further reminds me that if you have pictures or blog posts to share, please use the tag "sakainewport07" so that we can all find your contributions.

--- Two New Sakai Foundation Members

I'd like to announce the two newest members of the Sakai Foundation:

First, TIDIA-Ae from Brazil. TIDIA-Ae is a Brazilian e-learning Research project founded by FAPESP (São Paulo State Research Agency) involving 20 research laboratories with more than 150 researchers participating in activities. Professor Wilson Ruggiero is the principal investigator of the project and you can find out more about the initiative at <http://tidia-ae.incubadora.fapesp.br/portal/>.

I'm also pleased to announce that HuaZhong Normal University in China (<http://www.ccnu.edu.cn/english/>) has joined the foundation as a member. HuaZhong has an enrollment of approximately 30,000 students and is based in Wuhan in central China. The Sakai activity at HuaZhong is centered at the Engineering Research Center of Education Information Technology (EITEC), a National Center of the Chinese Ministry of Education. The director of EITEC is Professor Yang Zongka, who is also one of China's leading e-learning experts and a Vice-President of HNU. As you may have seen elsewhere, HuaZhong will be hosting the first Sakai China Workshop on March 1st of 2008.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Sakai Foundation I'd like to thank both organizations for their membership. Please join me in welcoming them into the community.

--- Opportunities to get together

I want to announce the next three "official" opportunities to get together:

- The first "Sakai China" workshop will be held on March 1st at HuaZhong Normal University in Wuhan, China. More details to follow, but I've already received a great deal of interest from members of the Chinese community about this event. If you'll be in the area around that time you might want to mark your calendar.

- Sakai will be participating in the next JA-SIG conference scheduled for the week of April 28th in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The main conference, which runs from Monday - Wednesday, includes a number of other community source projects (dSpace, Fedora and Quali in addition to JA-SIG and Sakai) and promises to be quite interesting and relevant to the Sakai community. We'll likely be adding two days of Sakai Project Planning meetings on Thursday and Friday. These will be focused on product development and it will be a good time for contributing institutions to get together face-to-face.

- Finally, I'm extremely excited to announce that the 9th Sakai Community Conference will be from July 1 - 3 in Paris, France. This will be hosted at the Université Pierre et Marie Curie (<http://www.upmc.fr> or <http://english.upmc.fr>). The typical pre- and post-conference meetings will also take place. I'm very excited about this and I hope to see you all there. You can track developments by following the wiki space dedicated to the conference at: <http://confluence.sakaiproject.org/confluence/x/kJ4>

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## 2. Come Join the Growing Teaching and Learning Community Within Sakai!

After a successful "community gathering" at the Newport Beach Conference, the teaching and learning folks within Sakai are starting up an active discussion online and beginning to organize around a number of new initiatives. If you are interested in participating, sharing, debating, or just listening in, please join us! You can subscribe to the e-mail list (called "Pedagogy" for the time being) from the Collab site at <https://collab.sakaiproject.org/portal> and review current progress on Confluence (under the DG: Pedagogy area) at <http://confluence.sakaiproject.org/>.

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### 3. The rSmart Group Builds Momentum by Adding New Sakai Clients

The rSmart Group announced exciting growth for its Sakai support and services offerings. rSmart is now providing commercial support and professional services for the rSmart Sakai Collaboration and Learning Environment (CLE) to educational institutions across the globe.

Institutions that have recently contracted with rSmart for support and services around Sakai include:

- Carnegie Mellon University
- Charles Sturt University (Australia)
- Cornell University
- Marist College
- Mesa Community College
- New York City Department of Education
- National Health Group (NHG), Singapore
- Portland State University
- Rutgers University
- University of Houston-Clear Lake
- University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
- University of Wyoming

Each of these institutions is using the Sakai CLE's powerful course management tools, ePortfolio functionality, and other collaboration features to enable and support innovative approaches to teaching and learning. In some cases the institutions are augmenting existing systems in order to get the specific best-of-breed functionality that Sakai offers. In other cases, institutions are using Sakai as a comprehensive replacement for an existing CMS solution. In implementations that vary from pilot programs to full production usage of Sakai, these institutions are relying on rSmart to support their innovations.

"We at Marist College picked rSmart in order to augment our resources with a team of knowledgeable Sakai experts. This allows our academic technology support team to focus on innovation in our area of expertise--teaching and learning," said, Josh Baron, Director, Academic Technology and eLearning, at Marist College. "Partnering with rSmart allows our scarce resources to work on local innovations and serve the needs of our academic community while rSmart takes care of the more routine support of our rSmart Sakai CLE instance."

To read the story in full, please visit: <http://www.rsmart.com/news/the-rsmart-group-builds-momentum-by-adding-new-sakai-clients>

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#### 4. rSmart Group Webinar: Why Sakai is the Right CMS for Higher Education

Today, Sakai is evolving at a faster rate than any other CMS. Come join Chris Coppola, Sakai Foundation board member and President of The rSmart Group to learn about Sakai's robust functionality and the service and support models that make it the right choice for your faculty, your students and your institution.

Date: Friday, December 14, 2007

Time: 1:00 EST

To register:

<https://www.yugma.com/scheduler/enroll.php?meetid=CPaaf3Q+9ZxzoAvTfuemaQ==>

Megan Perrone

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#### 5. Melete Lesson Builder 2.4.3 is Available

Melete Lesson Builder 2.4.3 is now available for a patched Sakai 2.3 or 2.4.

##### DOWNLOAD

You can get the source for Melete 2.4.3 from the Sakai contrib SVN. To download, build, and deploy, see the instructions: <http://etudesproject.org/release/melete/>

##### SUMMARY

This release adds support for SCORM 2004 export for Melete, thanks to Sacha Lepretre from CRIM, CA. It also adds support for missing titles and organization elements in IMS CP Import.

Melete 2.4.3 includes fixes with issues in the duplicate site feature, as well as inappropriate access to inactive modules, among other issues. For a complete list of the fixes in this maintenance release, please refer to the above web page.

From an author's perspective, a significant change is the elimination of requiring start and end dates in modules. Melete no longer fills in default date / time values for authors. If the start date is left blank by the author, the module is open immediately; and, if the end date is left blank, the module is open forever.

## CREDITS

Many thanks go to the following individuals / organizations for their contributions:

Mallika Thoppay and Rashmi Maheshwari, lead Melete developers, ETUDES Project, Foothill College, for their on-going work with Melete.

David Roldan Martinez and Raul Mengod from Universidad Politécnic de Valencia for their assistance in fixing Import/Export and Duplicate Site issues.

Sacha Lepretre from CRIM, Canada, for adding support for SCORM 2004 Export.

Steve Swinsburg, University of New England, Australia, for his tool that converts content from WebCT CE 4.1 to Melete.

<http://confluence.sakaiproject.org/confluence/display/MIG/UNE+Migration+Utility>

## QUESTIONS

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

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## 6. OpenEAI Project and the University of Illinois Recognized by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

The OpenEAI Software Foundation has announced that the University of Illinois (U. of I.) has received the 2007 Mellon Award for Technology Collaboration (MATC). The award honors not-for-profit organizations for leadership in the collaborative development of open source software tools with particular application to higher education and not-for-profit activities. The University of Illinois was recognized for its past contributions to the development of the open source OpenEAI software and for a project proposal intended to further the development of the OpenEAI software platform for enterprise application integration.

Accepting the award on behalf of the U. of I. was Douglas Vinzant, senior associate vice president for planning and administration. "The University of Illinois is honored to receive this prestigious award from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, " Vinzant said. "The software has enabled us to work more easily with vendors and other units within the university, and the distribution of the software and documentation under an open source license also benefits many other organizations working to integrate their applications and implement a service-oriented architecture."

"We appreciate the support of the University of Illinois and we are very pleased to see the university and the OpenEAI Project recognized by the Mellon Foundation and the

distinguished award committee," said Tod Jackson, president of the OpenEAI Software Foundation.

The awards were presented at the Fall Task Force meeting of the Coalition for Networked Information ([www.cni.org](http://www.cni.org)) in Washington, DC on December 10, 2007, by Sir Timothy Berners-Lee, Director of the World Wide Web Consortium and the inventor of the World Wide Web. The recipients will be selected by the MATC Award Committee, which included Berners-Lee, Mitchell Baker (CEO, Mozilla Corporation), John Seely Brown (former Chief Scientist, Xerox Corp.), Vinton G. Cerf (Vice President and Chief Internet Evangelist, Google, Inc.), John Gage (Chief Researcher and Director of the Science Office, Sun Microsystems, Inc.), and Tim O'Reilly (Founder and CEO, O'Reilly Media).

The University of Illinois will use the award to fund research assistantships for graduate students in Computer Science and other information technology related fields.

About the MATC The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation is a philanthropic organization with offices in New York City and Princeton, NJ. The MATC awards are a project of the Foundation's Program in Research in Information Technology (RIT). More information about the MATC awards, including the full content of this release, is available at <http://matc.mellon.org>. For information about the OpenEAI Project, go to [www.OpenEAI.org](http://www.OpenEAI.org).

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## 7. Cisco Learning Institute and Unicon Extend Partnership into 8th Year

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.

"We appreciate the quality services and value that Unicon has delivered to CLI over the years," said Helen Parke, Executive Director, Cisco Learning Institute. "Their experience and deep understanding of our software and solutions provide a strong complement to our resources."

"Unicon is pleased to continue its strong partnership with CLI into our eighth year," stated Chris Franz, president of Unicon, Inc. "Our professional services group works closely with CLI to provide its members and partners with key support services and training. "

Unicon's core functions under the agreement 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 provides staff and resources for 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 provides professional services resources dedicated to software engineering, project management and release management directly to CLI as well as indirectly to CLI's partners.

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.

For information about Unicon, please visit [www.unicon.net](http://www.unicon.net).

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## 8. Job Opening: Kualu Foundation Seeks Executive Director

The Kualu Foundation has commenced a search for its first executive director. Kualu is now engaged in five community source projects (Financial System, Endowment, Research Admin, Student, and Rice Middleware Services) representing millions of dollars of pooled investment. Full details of the position and the Kualu community are posted at [www.kualu.org](http://www.kualu.org).

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## 9. Job Opening: Marist College is Seeking Assistant Director for Academic Technology and eLearning

Marist College is seeking applicants for the full-time position of Assistant Director of Academic Technology and eLearning, which reports to the Director of Academic Technology and eLearning. This position will play a leadership role in helping the College achieve new strategic goals associated with distance learning as well as maintain its position as a technology leader.

The ideal candidate will possess strong management skills and have a proven track record as a thought leader and innovator within the field of instructional technology and distance learning. Qualified candidates will have experience working directly with faculty and students in a higher education setting and be comfortable with transformative change. Specific responsibilities will include: (1) managing and oversight of office personnel and



strategic initiatives, (2) keeping abreast of emerging multimedia and instructional technologies as they relate to the College's mission, (3) supervising faculty professional development programs and support services, and (4) developing and implementing innovative instructional technology and distance learning initiatives that take advantage of the extensive technology infrastructure found at Marist College.

Learn more and apply at: <http://jobs.marist.edu>

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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:

- 2.4.1 demo... loads... but... USER
- add menu item to SiteAction.java (Site Info) DEV
- AOP Question - Spring-OSGi news DEV
- Assignment ID and standards PORT UI
- combine quizzes in samigo DEV
- Does our Pager actually make sense? UI
- Download Guanxi Shubb Kit DEV
- Examples collection PED UI
- GMT Published Goal Sets UI
- GMT Published Goal Sets PORT

- Is Trunk Wild ? DEV
  - Proposed change for Resources tool in 2.4.x DEV
  - Subversion Commits in JIRA DEV
  - UMD - critical issues with authz and logging EVAL
  - Who wants to contribute to a EQ article on OSP? PORT
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## 11. Events

### e-Learning 2008

February 16-19, 2008

St. Petersburg, Florida, USA

<http://www.itcnetwork.org/elearning2008.htm>

### Sakai China

March 1, 2008

HuaZhong Normal University

Wuhan, China.

### JA-SIG Spring 2008 Conference

April 27 - 30, 2008

St. Paul, Minnesota

### 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>