# Sakai Newsletter

November 12, 2009

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## 1. From the Executive Director

I'm extremely pleased to announce that Alan Berg will serve as Interim Quality Assurance Director for the Sakai Foundation. Those of you who have worked with Alan know that this is excellent news for the Sakai community. In addition to assisting with the 2.7.0 release Alan will make a number of process and technology change recommendations, especially test automation. He will also engage with the Sakai 3 effort as time permits. Alan will be closely supported by Anthony Whyte in his role as 2.7.0 release manager.

Over the next few weeks Alan and Anthony will work together to define an action plan that can be implemented with the active support of the Sakai Community. In the meantime feel free to copy both of them on questions you might have or, better still, use the QA list.

This arrangement is made possible by an agreement with University of Amsterdam who generously allocated Alan's time for the next few months to serve in this capacity. I'm thankful for their contribution to the Foundation and to the community. While Alan will still have some local responsibilities, his main focus during this time will be Sakai QA. Subsequently it is likely that Alan will continue to contribute to the QA effort, specifically in executing some of the process change recommendations he will make. During this period I will be evaluating the QA role and looking for a candidate to fill the position in the long term.

Welcome aboard Alan!

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best regards,

Michael Korcuska
Executive Director, Sakai Foundation
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phone: +1 510-859-4247 (google voice)
skype: mkorcuska

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2. The New Sakai Website is Live -- Thanks Team!

Take a look... http://sakaiproject.org

We hope you will enjoy the new Sakai website. The idea behind the design was a better user experience. We wanted to make the content not only more appealing to look at, but to make it easier for you to find what you need by organizing the site into...

1. pages of information for those taking a look at Sakai for the first time with an eye to adoption
2. pages of links to the Sakai wiki as springboards for developers, educators, and instructional designers who want to participate in our active design and development community, and
3. information resources to help those of you already using Sakai.

We want to thank Michael Korcuska, Sakai Foundation's Executive Director, and our Board of Directors for initiating the redesign project. Thanos Partners for assistance with content organization and graphic design. Chuck Crandall of WebChuckWeb.com, Drupal-master who turned the designer's graphics into a working website. And finally to the outstanding efforts of two of our community member volunteers: Nate Angell from rSmart.com and Sean Keesler from threecanoes.com, without whose help in building out and debugging the website we could not have done it. One final thank you goes out to the community volunteers who "crowd-sourced" editing the video testimonials you see throughout the site.

So look around, explore the website and take advantage of the more centralized resources like links to the mail list archive, a group blog for information and status reports by Sakai project leaders, and rss feeds for Sakai news and events.

And we want to hear from you. Tell us what works, and what doesn't. What information should be on the website that's missing? This site is a dynamic community resource to facilitate more effective communication and collaboration. Your suggestions and contributions benefit everyone.

Sincerely,

Pieter Hartsook
Webmaster
Sakai Foundation Communications Manager
hartsook@sakaifoundation.com

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## 3. 3rd Annual TWSIA Competition Announced

The Sakai Foundation is seeking nominees for its third annual international Teaching with Sakai Innovation Award.  Representatives from the Foundation announced next year's competition at the EDUCAUSE Conference in Denver, Colorado. The intent of the award is to highlight examples of innovative and transformative educational applications of Sakai.

Applications for the 2010 TWSIA will be accepted starting in February 2010. Instructors or other interested parties can visit www.openedpractices.org to learn more about the award and access an online application form and evaluation rubric. Additional information will be posted on sakaiproject.org next month. Winners will be awarded a trip to Denver, Colorado, to present at the 11th  International Sakai Conference and receive their award.

Entries also seed a collection of innovative practices in the OpenEdPractices.org repository, a community of practice for teaching and learning with open/community-source tools supported in part by rSmart and the Association of American Colleges and Universities.

(See http://sakaiproject.org/innovation-awards for more information and the full announcement text.)

Pieter Hartsook
Sakai Foundation Communications Manager
hartsook@sakaifoundation.com

## 4. Oxford has Upgraded to 2.6.0

We are pleased to announce that on November 3 the University of Oxford upgraded to 2.6.0.

Adam Marshall
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## 5. rSmart's Sakai CLE 2.6.2 Released

rSmart has announced the release of the second service pack for the rSmart Sakai CLE 2.6. Enhancements include a completely redesigned Site Statistics Tool version 2.0 with AJAX-based interface and expanded reporting, newly added features to the Discussion Forums tool, and numerous improvements to Portfolios, the Site Editor, Installer tool, LDAP, and SIS properties. This service pack also resolves 226 total issues, including 209 bug fixes and 17 enhancements.

To read the full story, click here: http://bit.ly/IvZoT

Megan Perrone
Marketing Representative
rSmart
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## 6. University of Amsterdam Conducts OSP Audit

The University of Amsterdam (UvA) has been a pioneer in using the Open Source Portfolio (OSP) in Sakai for numerous educational purposes. On October 26-28, 2009, UvA conducted an audit to 1) determine the viability of continuing to use OSP, 2) gage the possibility of "quick wins" for encouraging and sustaining OSP use, and 3) gather OSP requirements for future use. The audit was commissioned by Léon Raijmann and organized by Marij Veugelers (Veugelers@uva.nl) of the UvA IT in Education Department. Janice Smith, Ph.D., of Three Canoes (http://threecanoes.com), a professional services company focusing on open source applications in education, facilitated the audit, meeting with seven user groups (Medical Education, Social Geography, Science, Psychology, Artificial Intelligence, Communication Science, Teacher Education) and the UvA Sakai development and functional support teams. Preliminary findings confirm that although the current use of OSP has declined due to attention being diverted elsewhere, there is overt enthusiasm among UvA user groups for adopting new OSP enhancements to support competency-based education. UvA IT in Education leadership will use the audit report to determine how to employ current OSP innovations to their best advantage and consider how new innovations to be developed by UvA could improve local use of OSP as well as contribute to the OSP community.

Janice A. Smith, Ph.D.
2009 Sakai Foundation Fellow
Three Canoes
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## 7. Advanced Sakai Portfolio Training at Marist College

Marist College is hosting an advanced Sakai portfolio training on our campus in Poughkeepsie, New York on December 10-11, 2009.

We have tried to keep costs low to just cover expenses: $750 per attendee for the two days of training, including lunch and refreshments. We have 10 attendees so far and are capping it at 20, so it will be very intimate and focused experience. To register, please email nate.angell@rsmart.com to reserve your spot and arrange payment details.

The training will be led by Sean Keesler and Janice Smith of Three Canoes, whose expertise is based on years of successfully implementing portfolios in a variety of educational contexts. Sean and Janice offer a functional and technical training package that has proven successful in numerous venues, and attends to the individual needs and

learning styles of each participant.

The training follows a free, part-day general interest K-20 ePortfolio Innovations event at Marist that will take place from 11am to 4pm, December 9, 2009. We encourage training participants to attend the Innovations event as an opportunity to meet portfolio practitioners from other institutions and engage with portfolios from institutional and functional perspectives.  For more information, visit: http://www.rsmart.com/event/marist-colleges-innovations-eportfolios-transforming-k-20-educational-experience

Training Prerequisites
  - A working understanding of XML, XSL and XSD.
  - A computer with OxygenXML installed (the trial version is fine) or another XML
       IDE of your choice. The instructors will be using OxygenXML.
  - A Sakai instance to work on. A QA server, free Try Sakai account or your own server
       would work. The instructors will be working with Sakai 2.6, but versions back as
       far as Sakai 2.4 should present no significant issues.

Training Agenda
Spend two concentrated days acquiring understanding and expertise in Sakai portfolio tools, data structures and how they work together to enact portfolio experiences. The goal of this training is to promote self-sufficiency in using Sakai portfolio tools for specific institutional purposes.

Desired participant outcomes include:
  - An overall understanding of how the Sakai portfolio tool suite can be customized to
       accomplish a range of educational purposes.
  - Enhanced expertise in the use of the XML stack to build portfolio data structures.
  - Success in creating portfolio forms using Form Builder, XML schema in Oxygen, and
       custom form renderers.
  - Step-by-step experience in building a portfolio template using a pre-prepared generic
       design that can be extended to match specific institutional needs.
  - Integration of portfolio knowledge and skills into strategic planning for specific
       institutional purposes.
  - Significant process in developing a portfolio template tailored to the needs of each
       participating institution.

Training Schedule
  - 12/10 Morning: Functional and technical overview of the portfolio tool suite; planning
       your portfolio implementation.

  - 12/10 Afternoon: Updating your expertise in using XML and Oxygen; creating forms

with Form Builder and as XML schema in Oxygen.
- 12/11 Morning: Building a portfolio template using Oxygen and a pre-prepared template design that can be modified to meet your institutional needs.
- 12/11 Afternoon: Integrating portfolio knowledge and skills to build a portfolio template for your institution.


Joshua Baron
Director, Academic Technology and eLearning
Marist College
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## 8. Are You Using or Planning to Use Profile2?

Hi everyone,

As you may be aware, a number of new tools and services are being considered by the Sakai Product Council for inclusion in Sakai 2.7:
http://confluence.sakaiproject.org//x/j4LgAw

Profile2 is one of these new tools:  http://confluence.sakaiproject.org//x/DYA7AQ

Over the past few months I've heard from a number of institutions trialling, interested in, or maybe even in production with Profile2, but just wanted to get a new show of hands of who is using Profile2 so I can work with you in your rollout and through any issues you might have. So, who's using it?

Cheers,

Steve Swinsburg
steve.swinsburg@gmail.com


## 9. UNC Sakai Pilot Evaluation -- Final Report and Results Summary Slides

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has conducted a pilot to evaluate the efficacy of Sakai for teaching, research, outreach, and administrative purposes. Both the

74-page Final Report (http://www.unc.edu/sakaipilot/blog/?p=54) and a 15-slide visual

summary (http://www.unc.edu/sakaipilot/blog/?p=57) are available.

Pieter Hartsook
hartsook@sakaifoundation.org

## 10. EDUCAUSE Research -- Dynamics of Supporting Sakai Through Local and Global Collaboration

This EDUCAUSE Center for Applied Research (ECAR) bulletin discusses the adjustments that the Indiana University information technology organization made, and continues to make, in order to support membership in Sakai. It has been said that supporting Sakai can seem like trying to change a tire on a moving car. As co-founder of and active participant in the Sakai collaboration, the effects of IU's decision -- the unexpected, the challenging, and the delightful—are discussed in terms of the intra- and interuniversity realities of highly collaborative efforts.

The report is available in pdf format at:
http://www.educause.edu/ECAR/DynamicsofSupportingSakaiThrou/162979

## 11. rSmart's Sakai and Support Solution Chosen by Johns Hopkins, UC Davis, and Others

 rSmart recently announced impressive growth for its rSmart Sakai Collaboration and Learning Environment (CLE) software and support services.  Fourteen new academic institutions, including Johns Hopkins University, UC Davis, UC Santa Cruz, and University of the Pacific, as well as the open source Kuali Foundation, have implemented the rSmart solution this year. The rSmart Sakai (CLE) is the company's enterprise-ready and supported version of the open source Sakai software that includes a unique capability to support teaching and learning, project collaboration, group interaction, and ePortfolios across the academic enterprise, all from a single platform.

To read the full story, click here: http://www.rsmart.com/news/rsmart's-sakai-cle-support-solution-chosen-johns-hopkins-university-uc-davis-and-other-leading-educational-institutions

Megan Perrone

Marketing Representative
rSmart
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## 12. rSmart Job Openings -- Software Support Engineer and Sakai Solutions Consultant

Job: Software Support Engineer
http://www.linkedin.com/jobs?viewJob=&jobId=776445
Phoenix, Arizona Area

We are looking for an energetic and motivated Software Support Engineer to join our team working on Kuali, an open-source, web-based financial system used by colleges and universities around the country.

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Job: Sakai Solutions Consultant
http://www.linkedin.com/jobs?viewJob=&jobId=779042
Northeastern U.S.

We are looking for a highly knowledgeable and capable sales leader with a proven track record of selling high-value complex solutions to colleges and universities.

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## 13. Recent Email Group Discussions

[Building Sakai] **Sakai 2.5.6 / 2.6.2 maintenance releases**
http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Sakai-2-5-6-2-6-2-maintenance-releases-
        td3981715.html#a3981715

[Building Sakai] **Recommanded OS X dev setup...**
http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Recommanded-OS-X-dev-setup-
        td3981148.html#a3981148

[Building Sakai] **Transaction problem when copying site**
http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Transaction-problem-when-copying-site-
        td3985378.html#a3985378

[Building Sakai] **Trunk: ui package proposal**
http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Trunk-ui-package-proposal-
        td3961042.html#a3961929


[Building Sakai] **Search tool: memory problem in rebuilding indexes.**
http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Search-tool-memory-problem-in-rebuilding-indexes-
        td3985441.html#a3985441


[Building Sakai] **moved/removed javacode 2.5 - 2.6**
http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-moved-removed-javacode-2-5-2-6-
        td3959004.html#a3972086


[Building Sakai] **Export calendar events to iCal format**
http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Rwiki-and-IE8-td3993272.html#a3993715


[Building Sakai] **sakai, webdav, and Windows 7**
http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-sakai-webdav-and-Windows-7-
        td3995963.html#a3996814


[Building Sakai] **maven v2.2.1**
http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-maven-v2-2-1-td3997406.html#a3997406


[Building Sakai] **Portals and transactions**
http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Portals-and-transactions-td3987046.html#a3987046


[Building Sakai] **A question about how to use some APIs in project Profile2**
http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-A-question-about-how-to-use-some-APIs-in-project-
        Profile2-td3952620.html#a3952620


[Building Sakai] **Oracle database for sakai**
http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Are-you-using-planning-to-use-Profile2-If-so-let-me-
        know-td3998392.html#a4000265


[Portfolio] [DG: Teaching & Learning] **Link to Google Doc for teaching needs**
http://n2.nabble.com/Re-Portfolio-DG-Teaching-Learning-Link-to-Google-Doc-for-
        teaching-needs-td3974134.html#a3977595

[Portfolio] **IU Matrix enhancements finally merged to trunk!**
http://n2.nabble.com/Portfolio-IU-Matrix-enhancements-finally-merged-to-trunk-
        td3974903.html#a3974903

[Using Sakai] **Site Stats issue**
http://n2.nabble.com/Using-Sakai-Site-Stats-issue-td3998820.html#a3998820

[Using Sakai] **Email notification in assignment after grading**
http://n2.nabble.com/Using-Sakai-Email-notification-in-assignment-after-grading-
        td3985104.html#a3985104

[Portfolio] **Call for award committee members**
http://n2.nabble.com/Portfolio-Call-for-award-committee-members-
        td3995280.html#a3995280

[DG: Teaching & Learning] [WG: Accessibility] [Management] Fwd: **Sakai 3
        Capabilities and Accessibility**
http://n2.nabble.com/Re-WG-Accessibility-Management-Fwd-Sakai-3-Capabilities-and-
        Accessibility-td3953596.html#a3955539

[DG: User Experience] [DG: Teaching & Learning]  **User Goals**
http://n2.nabble.com/DG-User-Experience-User-Goals-td3944287.html#a3944287

[DG: User Experience] **3akai UX developers virtual meeting**
http://n2.nabble.com/DG-User-Experience-3akai-UX-developers-virtual-meeting-
        td3955413.html#a3955413

[DG: User Experience] **Refactor 3akai site membership role creation**
http://n2.nabble.com/DG-User-Experience-Refactor-3akai-site-membership-role-creation-
        td3959726.html#a3959726

[DG: User Experience] **Pending groups-and-role 3akai tasks**
http://n2.nabble.com/DG-User-Experience-Pending-groups-and-role-3akai-tasks-
td3954648.html#a3954648

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## 14. Events

III Reunión de usuarios de Sakai en España
19 - 20 de noviembre, 2010

Universidad Pública de Navarra
http://www.fundacion.unavarra.es/sakai/

Online Educa Berlin 2009
December 2-4, 2009
Hotel InterContinental Berlin
Berlin, Germany
http://www.online-educa.com/the-conference

Jasig 2010 Ten Years of Open Source Innovation
March 8-10, 2009
The Town and Country Resort
San Diego, California
http://www.ja-sig.org/conferences/10spring/index.html