



Sakai Newsletter

May 27, 2010

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1. From the Executive Director

It's been a busy week at the Sakai Foundation and in the community. We have a new version of software almost ready; the release team is in the final stages of preparing the 2.7.0 release candidate. More than 50 people have contributed to this version, so it's a true product of the community. Also, conference preparations are well underway. Nearly 400 people from 6 continents are already registered, with new registrations flowing in daily. In addition to what promises to be a thought provoking keynote by Anya Kamenetz, the author of *DIY U: Edupunks, Edpreneurs and the Coming Transformation of Higher Education*, we're looking forward to hearing from the winners of the Teaching with Sakai Innovation Awards. The awards were announced this week. Scott Bowman, Texas State San Marcos, Sally Knipe, Charles Sturt University, Joshua Danish, Indiana University Bloomington, and Karen Swenson, Virginia Tech, will show us some of the best examples of teaching and learning in higher education.

We're doing our best to be green at this year's conference, and are actively seeking ways to cut down on the amount of paper distributed. For example, most attendees will travel

with technology, so we're planning to make the conference schedule easily accessible from laptops and phones, and to print fewer copies of the paper version of the program. This year we'll use QR codes to help navigate the digital schedule. If you're planning to attend, keep an eye out for mail as we near the conference dates that tells more about how to help us keep the conference as green as possible.

Lois Brooks
Executive Director, Sakai Foundation
lbrooks@sakaifoundation.org

2. Position announcement: Sakai 3 Project Manager

Sakai is looking for a new breed of Project Manager. The vibrant, broadly distributed, very diverse next generation Sakai project needs a PM who can coordinate an agile development team with a focus on inclusion, participatory design and broad community engagement. If you are excited by this opportunity to explore new territory as part of the Sakai team, please see <http://sakaiproject.org/news/sakai-3-project-manager-job-description> for details and application instructions.

Lois Brooks
Executive Director, Sakai Foundation
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3. Teaching with Sakai Innovation Award Winners

We are pleased to announce the winners of the 2010 Teaching with Sakai Innovation Awards. Winners in the 3rd annual competition are:

First Prize: Scott Bowman, Juvenile Justice, Texas State University-San Marcos

Second Prize: Sally Knipe, Transitions in Middle Schooling, Charles Sturt University

Honorable Mention: Joshua Danish, Computational Technologies in Educational Ecosystems, Indiana University Bloomington

Honorable Mention: Karen Swenson, Introduction to Science Fiction and Fantasy, Virginia Tech

Each of the winners will be presenting their use of Sakai for teaching and learning at the Sakai Conference in Denver, Colorado on June 15 - 17, 2010. Please see the conference

website for the time and location of the presentations.
<http://sakaiproject.org/static/conference-2010.htm>

The Teaching with Sakai Innovation Award (TWSIA) highlights the core elements of our community. The TWSIA program chairs, Kate Ellis and Susan Roig, made a critical contribution in leading and managing the entire award process, with support of a strong committee. The panel of judges contributed their valuable time and expertise. IBM's sponsorship and support from rSmart and Jon Wiley & Sons funded the prizes and travel for the participants. These collective contributions allow us to recognize and acknowledge faculty members that are leading innovation in teaching and learning, and to learn from their ideas in order to seed new opportunities for improvement and creativity.

On behalf of the community, I would like to congratulate the winners, and thank those who contributed to make these important awards possible.

TWSIA Program Chairs

- Kate Ellis, Indiana University
- Susan Roig, Claremont Graduate University

TWSIA Judges

- Ken Bain, Montclair State University
- Angela T. Ragusa, Charles Sturt University
- Karen Swan, University of Illinois Springfield
- James Zimmerman, Montclair State University

TWSIA Sponsors

- Lead Sponsor, IBM
- Supporting Sponsor, rSmart
- Supporting Sponsor, John Wiley & Sons

4. Sakai-Based Courses Win Major Awards in China

Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications (BUPT), one of China's major providers of distance learning and a Sakai institution, recently won the National Excellent Course Awards (Cyber-Education) from China's Ministry of Education for three fully online courses they developed. The courses included: Data Structure(Java) (http://jx2.buptnu.com.cn/data_structure/), Theory of digital telecommunication (http://jx2.buptnu.com.cn/digit_comm/), and Mobile Telecommunication (http://jx2.buptnu.com.cn/mobile_comm/) which were all developed and delivered using Sakai.

On a related note, BUPT hosted the 2010 International Virtual Learning Environment conference on May 12-14 which brought over 60 institutions and 200+ educators from around China together to discuss both the technology and teaching associated with distance education. Presentations included a broad range of topics, including Sakai with a keynote from Josh Baron, Chair of the Sakai Foundation Board of Directors, who provided an overview of Sakai, examples of innovative teaching with Sakai and a look at Sakai 3. In addition, John Leasia and Zhen Qian, from the University of Michigan, presented on Michigan's Sakai use and some of the technology they use to run their enterprise implementation.

Joshua Baron
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5. GSoC Update

Bad news and good news this week. We lost one student, Cyrille, who was going to work on the OpenSyllabus project but unfortunately had to pull out. But, Google was good enough to let us reassign the slot to our excellent runner up, Manoj Inukolunu, 3rd year CS at BITS-Pilani (in Goa), who is going to work on a citation manager widget for Sakai 3.

This is an exploratory project -- citation management is a major academic activity and we figure there should be some synergy with Sakai, we just haven't worked out what yet! So your input is very welcome. Manoj will be starting a page in Confluence for this.

Meanwhile, check out Ashish Mittal's post about his event explorer project on the Sakai GSoC blog.

6. "Kaltura Video in Sakai" - Sakai 2010 Conference Session

Presented by Aaron Zeckoski, Software Engineer, Unicon, Inc.

This session at the Sakai Annual Conference will discuss the Sakai/Kaltura video integration. Aaron Zeckoski, Software Engineer at Unicon, presented the extension for the first time to the higher education community at the Kaltura webinar, "Enhancing Your LMS and EDU Programs with Online Video from Kaltura." The webinar recording is available here as a sneak preview to this session, which will take place on Tuesday, June 15, at the Sakai 2010 Conference in Denver.

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7. Recent Email Discussion Groups

[Building Sakai] 2.7 release schedule

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Re-WG-Sakai-QA-Building-Sakai-2-7-release-schedule-td5104788.html#a5104917>

[Building Sakai] 2.8 potential scope

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-2-8-potential-scope-td5098391.html#a5098391>

[Building Sakai] BasicLTI Post 2.7.0

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Re-Building-Sakai-BasicLTI-Post-2-7-0-td5108041.html#a5108041>

[Building Sakai] BigBlueButton

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-BigBlueButton-td5110475.html#a5110475>

[Building Sakai] cache automatically updates itself?

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-cache-automatically-updates-itself-td5114997.html#a5114997>

[Building Sakai] chat in presence [Building Sakai] Citation Helper/Google Scholar on nightly build: No more links to Sakai

[Building Sakai] Tool's Icon

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Tool-s-Icon-td5107193.html#a5107193>

[Building Sakai] Unexpected change in behaviour in 2.6.x wrt to Tool names

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Unexpected-change-in-behaviour-in-2-6-x-wrt-to-Tool-names-td5098256.html#a5098256>

[DG: Teaching & Learning] Basic screen casts on how to use Sakai

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Using-Sakai-Basic-screen-casts-on-how-to-use-Sakai-td5108505.html#a5108505>

[DG: User Experience] assignments ZIP files wants a password
<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/DG-User-Experience-assignments-ZIP-files-wants-a-password-td5064461.html#a5064461>

[DG: User Experience] Content Drawer?
<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/DG-User-Experience-Content-Drawer-td5085299.html#a5085299>

[DG: User Experience] Fwd: UMICH Sakai 3 Portfolio contributions
<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/DG-User-Experience-Fwd-UMICH-Sakai-3-Portfolio-contributions-td5095847.html#a5095847>

[DG: User Experience] Space
<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/DG-User-Experience-Space-td5105168.html#a5105168>

[DG: User Experience] UX Framework / working prototypes?
<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/DG-User-Experience-UX-Framework-working-prototypes-td5076862.html#a5076862>

[DG: User Experience] UX review process ?
<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/DG-User-Experience-UX-review-process-td5104921.html#a5105033>

[Portfolio] Changing Matrix Owner?
<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Portfolio-Changing-Matrix-Owner-td5099779.html#a5099779>

[Portfolio] Portfolio stories
<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Portfolio-Portfolio-stories-td5079163.html#a5080988>

[Portfolio] Problems with FCK editor in Sakai 2.6
<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Portfolio-Problems-with-FCK-editor-in-Sakai-2-6-td5095023.html#a5095023>

[Using Sakai] [Building Sakai] Citation Helper/Google Scholar on nightly build: No more links to Sakai
<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Citation-Helper-Google-Scholar-on-nightly-build-No-more-links-to-Sakai-td5081378.html#a5083053>

[Using Sakai] Basic screen casts on how to use Sakai
<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Using-Sakai-Basic-screen-casts-on-how-to-use-Sakai-td5108505.html#a5108505>

[Using Sakai] My Workspace Resource Folder
<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Using-Sakai-My-Workspace-Resource-Folder-td5094508.html#a5094508>

8. Events

2010 Sakai Annual Conference

Tuesday - Thursday, June 15-17, 2010

Pre-conference sessions: Monday, June 14, 2010

Hyatt Regency Tech Center

Denver, Colorado

<http://sakaiproject.org/news/2010-sakai-conference-website-goes-live-call-proposals-now-open>

Advance CAMP (Campus Architecture and Middleware Planning) Workshop

"The Second Identity Services Summit"

June 23-25, 2010

Raleigh, North Carolina

www.incommon.org/camp

2010 AuSakai Conference

Wednesday - Friday, September 15-17

Pre-conference session: Wednesday, 15th September

North Sydney College, Northern Sydney Institute of TAFE

www.nsi.tafensw.edu.au/AuSakai2010