Sakai Newsletter

December 8, 2011

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1. From the Executive Director

I am pleased to announce that Steve Swinsburg, of the Australian National University, David Ackerman, of New York University, and Seth Theriault, of Columbia University have been elected to the Board of Directors of the Sakai Foundation.

The elections were close run, with the second two of three candidates receiving an identical number of votes. In these unprecedented circumstances, and with only two positions vacant, the existing Board were polled for their preferences on how to proceed. They determined, without any vote to the contrary, that all three candidates should be declared elected -- hence the slight delay in announcing results.

I would like to welcome the three successful candidates to the Foundation Board, and to thank them for volunteering their time and effort to the Board.

Ian Dolphin
Executive Director, Sakai Foundation
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Voting:

38 Institutional Representatives voted, with Steve Swinsburg (ANU) receiving 28 votes, David Ackerman (NYU) 20 votes, and Seth Theriault (Columbia) 20 votes.

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2. Indiana University and the University of Michigan Increase Investment in Sakai Open Academic Environment Software

Indiana University (IU) and the University of Michigan have committed to more than doubling their investment in the Sakai community product suite; increasing their commitment to the Sakai Open Academic Environment (OAE) project from $200K to $500K per year. The OAE project represents the Sakai community's new vision for collaboration and learning software for higher education.

"With academic social networking and content discovery features, support of emerging learner-centered pedagogies, and flexible and extensible technical architecture, the OAE has the potential to reshape higher education," said Brad Wheeler, IU vice president for information technology and chief information officer.

In 2004, IU, the University of Michigan, MIT, and Stanford jointly launched the Sakai project to create open-source course management tools and related software for the higher education community. Today, the Sakai Foundation is made up of more than 68 member institutions and a dozen corporate affiliates. In total, the Sakai Collaboration and Learning Environment (CLE) learning management software is being used in over 350 institutions.

The recent increase in investment will expedite the development of OAE, encouraging institutions to transition their developmental resources from CLE into OAE. Indiana University and University of Michigan have been major users and financial supporters of CLE since its inception, and after core OAE functionality is available, both plan to run CLE and OAE systems in parallel to ease the transition for faculty and students.

"The renewed and expanded commitment by Indiana University and the University of Michigan to the Sakai product suite continues the tradition of partnership and innovation between these two great institutions," said Laura Patterson, chief information officer and associate vice president of information and technology services at the University of Michigan. "The time is right to accelerate the new culture of learning that is emerging to meet 21st century demands for life-long, life-wide engagement."

In addition to Indiana and Michigan, the OAE project's founding institutional partners include Cambridge University, UC Berkeley, New York University, Charles Sturt University, and Georgia Tech. The project released OAE version 1.0.2 on October 21,

2011, and core functionality will become available over the next 12 to 24 months. See
http://sakaiproject.org/node/2239

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3. Make Sure Sakai is Represented!

Birmingham University (UK) has been undertaking a survey of LMS/VLE use across
Higher Education. Please take a moment to add information about your Sakai instance at:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0Au_thP0JDFvidHA4WGYwbFpUTmh4Z
3RjSVQzQTViaGc&hl=en_US#gid=0

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4. Sakai 2.7.2 and 2.8.1 Maintenance Releases

The Sakai community has been busy moving forward with multiple projects and releases.
We are pleased to announce availability of both the Sakai 2.7.2 and 2.8.1 maintenance
releases.

- Release documentation and artifacts for 2.7.2 are available at
http://source.sakaiproject.org/release/2.7.2/

- Release documentation and artifacts for 2.8.1 are available at
http://source.sakaiproject.org/release/2.8.1/

We are also working on the Sakai CLE 2.9.0 major release, which contains over 500 bug
fixes, security fixes and new features, with an anticipated release date next year.

Our thanks go out to the dedicated Sakai Community volunteers from around the world
who have made this release possible.

Beth Kirschner
bkirschn@umich.edu

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5. AuSakai 2012 Conference -- 18 - 19 September 2012

The AuSakai 2012 conference will be held on 18 - 19 September 2012 on the Bathurst
Campus, NSW and hosted by Charles Sturt University. The conference will finish around
3pm on 19 September 2012.

The theme will focus on the innovative use of Sakai.

The international keynote speakers will be:

- Dr Lucy Appert, an academic and also Director of Educational Technology, New York University. Lucy is further the chair of the Sakai Open Academic Environment user reference group.

- Ian Dolphin, Executive Director of the Sakai Foundation.

We hope that you will be able to present/attend. More information will follow.

Make sure it's in your 2012 diary.

Regards

Philip Uys
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Division of Learning and Teaching Services
Charles Sturt University
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6. Teaching with Sakai Webinar Series -- Session 04

Dear colleagues and friends,

Please plan to attend the fourth session in the Teaching with Sakai webinar series!

Engaging Medical Students in Pathology: Podcasts and Zooming Images

Wednesday, December 14, 2011
3:00 pm EST; noon PST
Register now at: http://www.eventbrite.com/event/2359146270

Dr. Howard Reisner (UNC-Chapel Hill) is teaching a one-week block that introduces second year medical students to pathology -- specifically, the causes and progression of disease as expressed in tissue. The teaching goals are to:

- Introduce medical students to common disease processes as expressed in tissue

- Provide case-based examples of disease in tissue to provide practice for students in recognizing tissue-based lesions using virtual microscopy

- Promote active learning by providing a disease identification challenge to students

This webinar will focus on how Dr. Reisner is using interactive, "zoomable" images (i.e., virtual microscopy) and video podcasts in Sakai to meet these goals in a medical curriculum setting.

The Teaching with Sakai Webinar Series

The Teaching with Sakai webinar series highlights effective teaching practices using Sakai. Each webinar in the series begins with a 20-minute presentation followed by facilitated discussion.

We hope to see you online!

Kim Eke
University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

Jon Hays
University of California-Berkeley

Kate Ellis
Indiana University-Bloomington

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7. Marist College Seeking Instructional Designer

Marist College is seeking applicants for the full time position of Instructional Designer. This position will report to the Assistant Director of Academic Technology and eLearning and play a central role in helping the college achieve new strategic goals associated with distance education and using instructional technologies to enhance the teaching and learning experience. The position will provide faculty with pedagogical and instructional design consultation related to course, module, and whole curriculum development activities for traditional, online, and hybrid courses.

More details and application can be found at: http://jobs.marist.edu

Thanks,

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