

WMU Webmasters' Users Group

June 25, 2008

Present: Nancy Kroes, OIT; Ken Schaefer, Admissions; Michael Whang, Library; Deb Withee, COE; Nancy Meister, DOSA; Ryan McGregor, DPS; Amy Huffman, HR; Lisa Knutson, Auxiliary; Joe Fee, Evaluation Center; Brandon Cady, CSES; Michael VanPutten, Enrollment Mgmt. and Erik Dantes, Physical Plant

Announcements

- Nancy Kroes announced that there will be a server upgrade on Monday, June 30 that will include an Apache upgrade and PHP update.
- It was advised that webmasters update the WMU people search tool to the new URL: <https://www.wmich.edu/peoplesearch/> - the address was updated on the University template at the last release.
- University Relations has established a new unit "Electronic Communication" with Thom Myers appointed as director. Lisa Knutson suggested that WUG make contact with Thom to establish a line of open communication with the new office.
- Nancy Meister is working to arrange a possible visit and presentation from the MI State Usability & Accessibility Center.
- Deb Withee brought up the future possibility of including GPS coordinates on WMU web sites in combination with the physical building address. Physical Plant is presently exploring this option.

Video for the Web

Presenter Michael VanPutten:

- Video for the web is presently affordable, easy and fast.
- Three hand-held recorders were compared:
 1. The Flip (under \$100)
 2. RCA Small Wonder (under \$100)
 3. Canon ZR830 (\$2500-\$5000)
- Import features vary. The Flip and RCA offer fast transfer, but lower quality. The Canon model offer firewire transfer and digital capture.
- Publishing video to YouTube, or through email is fairly quick/easy with the Flip and RCA models.
- RCA Small Wonder has expandable memory, a flip around monitor, and uses AA batteries. A battery charger can be purchased separately.
- Editing can be performed in either iMovie or FinalCut. Files may need to be converted before extended editing. Visual Hub is a \$15 tool for Mac users.
- Michael extended an offer to WUG members to borrow the Department's units if they are not reserved or in use.

Presenter Nancy Kroes:

- The Flip offers good quality video intended for amateur applications. Two different models offer either a 30 minute or 60 minute option.
- Is useful for training or web video such as YouTube.
- Controls are intuitive, easy to use, and can be used on any computer.
- For the value, the RCA may have additional features that the Flip does not.

WUG member updates

Eric Dantes: Physical Plant is working with Google Earth panoramas, and high resolution images of campus locations. Working with Google Maps API integration to coordinate street addresses with GPS coordinates.

Ken Schaefer: Attended a Sunguard conference on the Banner 8 release of the student information system. Is working to develop a major plan/strategy approach to the web.

Michael Whang: Redesigning the Library web site using focus groups and user coment/input. The new design has better drop-down menus, larger text, IM chat with a Librarian and is accessible. There is a blog at <http://social.library.wmich.edu/>

Deb Withee: College of Education is currently setting up web faculty profiles.

Nancy Meister: Student Affairs is updating HTML code in anticipation of the CMS switch. Bronco Bash 2007 photo tour is available on Student Life web site. Exploring/developing web video options for Student Affairs/Student Life site.

Ryan McGregor: The Public Safety office has implemented the WMU template on their web site. This spring, visitors for Orientation were able to get their parking passes online.

Amy Huffman: Human Resources is implementing a benefits orientation online for faculty this fall. It will feature enhanced podcasting, including Power Point with voice-over. The department hopes to develop the same feature for other employee groups. Hr continues work on the electronic workflow system through People Soft.

Lisa Knutson: The new Miller Auditorium web site is online – and the Office of Business and Finance is implementing new travel information.

Joe Fee: The Evaluation Center is updating approx. 6,000 web pages, and is evaluating Audio/Visual products. Features include linking evaluation terms to a Wiki.

Darren Webb: Sindecuse Health Center is currently looking for a student to help with web development, PHP, and Flash. They are using Net Key to push different content to different TV terminals – and exploring RSS feeds.

Brandon Cady: CSES is updating the visual content of their web site.

The July WUG meeting date may change depending on the availability of the MSU representative.

Meet adjourned.