

# IS&T Newsletter

*"...whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus" - Col 3:17.*

*From the desk of Keith Cronk, VP-IS&T*

As we welcomed the New Year, and a new decade, we took time to reflect on what happened over the previous ten years. All in IS&T had opportunity to contribute to a document that highlighted achievements over the last 10 years. You can view this document by clicking: [IS&T 2000-2009](#). It was very interesting to reflect on what has been achieved and how the 'landscape' has changed in that timeframe. By the way, we used a Google Doc to collaborate, prepare and share this document.

We are now going to move ahead and dream somewhat. We are going to try and envision what we would like to see the IS&T landscape to look like at the end of the next 10 years! We may be crazy to even try that, given the volatility of technology and its applications, but we can certainly have a vision for the concepts we would like to see in place, even if we do not know how they will be implemented at this time. I am confident that even the iPad will be old hat by then! (What is an 'old hat'? I must Google that sometime.)

To add some excitement to the New Year, we moved our databases from VMS servers to Linux servers. It was a big project and to quote Lyn Blansett, she was in the "eye of the hurricane". In reality Lyn was the hurricane, but completely unlike a hurricane, this was a well planned and implemented project. Lyn deserves a lot of the credit, along with Richard Pierce for the project's success. Others certainly contributed a lot, but Lyn and Richard were there in the center of it all. The move to Linux will continue, until all databases have been moved from VMS. Harding has been using forms of VMS since the 80s. Another significant, but largely, unnoticed change.

## Brackett Library recaps 2009 successes

*All that mankind has done, though, gained or been:  
it is lying as in magic preservation in the pages of books.*  
- Thomas Carlyle



BRACKETT Library With all due respect to Mr. Carlyle and the books that we love, today's academic libraries

boast many wonderful features that cannot be found in between pages. A quick look at Brackett Library's activities in 2009 will show a busy place, full of creative energy. Without further adieu, we present the 2009 edition of the Brackett Library Top Ten Activities and Projects.

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### JUST IN . . .

*A new, slimmer and faster version of Pipeline will be available for registration times this spring and summer. This is part of the complete redevelopment of Pipeline, by Harding AD&E staff.*

## Database & System Administration: end of VMS era brings greater performance

IS&T has just witnessed the end of an era. For the past 25 years Harding's main administrative data management system (Banner, and the legacy systems before it) has resided on central servers running the VMS operating system.

During the month of January the MIS Banner Migration Team successfully moved the entire Banner system from VMS to a brand new set of servers running the Linux operating system.

"The move to Linux was necessary because of the direction our major software vendors are taking," says Mike Chalenburg, Assistant VP of IS&T at Harding.

According to Chalenburg, "Running our databases on the Linux operating system will give us many more options in the future for software implementation, while allowing us to apply needed software patches and upgrades much more

quickly than we could under VMS."

The new hardware that is now hosting Banner is a vast improvement over the old outdated servers. Jon Wrye, Manager of Database & System Administration, says "The main database server for Banner was 8 years old, which is ancient in the computer world.

The new database server is only about one-tenth the physical size of the old one, yet it packs more than 4 times the computing power." Wrye says the migration team has observed at least a 400% improvement in processing time for Banner jobs.

For those with long-term experience with VMS at Harding, its phase-out is somewhat bittersweet. "I've always felt like God raised up the right people at the right time to serve this institution. Likewise I think VMS was the right operating system at the right time

to serve our needs," says John Nunnally, Manager of Network Operations.

Nunnally remembers when the first DEC MicroVAX server for the administrative computer center arrived in 1985, "It was only a small development server running VMS, not even capable of serving the entire campus. It was about the size of a dorm room fridge and it cost about 10 times more than our current Linux database server."

With the end of the VMS era at IS&T comes the dawn of a new era of greater systems flexibility and power. We hope our Banner users enjoy the improved performance on the new Linux servers!



Above: The MIS Banner Migration Team: Left to Right: Glen Tankersley, Ashley Veatch, Lyn Blansett, Peter Kirby, Richard Pierce. Not pictured: Justin Kirk.

Right: The new Linux database server sits on top of the old VMS database server.



### *From the Registrar's Office*

Registration has gone well for spring 2010.

◆ **Summer registration** opens March 16.

◆ **Fall registration** will open as follows:

GR and SR	March 30
Juniors	April 1
Sophomore	April 6
Freshman	April 8

◆ **Document Imaging** implementation has begun.

## Staff changes in E-Learning Development & Support and Client Support Services



E-Learning Development & Support has been fortunate to hire Scott Pritchett (left) as the new lab support specialist. Scott worked in Client Support Services for five years. If you have worked with Scott during his time with CSS, you know Scott's skills and helpful spirit will be a positive addition to CT&L. Pritchett replaces Matt Fecteau who departed E-Learning to join a company in California.



Client Support & Consulting Services welcomes Allen Henry (left) as Desktop Support Specialist. Henry is a fall 2009 Harding graduate, and has 4.5 years previous experience working in E-Learning. Please join us in welcoming Scott & Allen to their new positions in IS&T.

## Harding Academy infrastructure gets a face lift

An upgrade to network and telephone services is being done at Harding Academy as part of the addition of a new wing on the school side.

All cable servicing the Academy entered the building underground exactly where the new addition was being built. This required a redesign of all services at the Academy and has resulted in major upgrades taking place over the last few months:

- New single mode fiber optic cable has been extended under Park Street to the north side of the building.
- The main network machine room in the high school hallway has been doubled in size to accommodate updated network and telephone equipment. Two new racks have been installed and all cable has been rerouted.
- The telephones have been moved from the old Nortel system to the Cisco Voice over IP (VoIP) system to eliminate the need for rerunning copper telephone cable.

- Some of the new addition is too far from the primary machine room. A secondary machine room will be established in the new addition to provide services to the new areas.

More work will be needed to reconfigure networking at the football field press box but the resources are in place to take care of that part of the project early this semester.



Figure 1: New single mode fiber being run under Park St. to the Academy.

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## Daylight Savings Time Begins March 14, 2010

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## Brackett Library recaps 2009 successes - continued

10. **Instant Message reference.** Added to the webpage in the fall semester, IM reference became a quick favorite of students.

9. **Trunk-or-Treat.** The library participated in Harding's Trunk-or-Treat activities during Homecoming weekend and distributed over 400 free books to children from Searcy.



Left: Jean Waldrop, circulation librarian, during homecoming week.

8. **New twists on an old favorite.** In December, Keith Cronk shared *The Aussie Night Before Christmas* and Michael Claxton read *The Night Before Christmas in TV Land*.

7. **Smashing the digital divide.** 2009 saw a drastic increase in online resources. At the close of the year, over 46,000 full text journals could be accessed through the library's website.

6. **Harding History goes online.** In 2009, over 5,000 images from Harding's history became public through Flickr, an online photo sharing and management application located at the following: [http://www.flickr.com/photos/hubrackett\\_library/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/hubrackett_library/).

Response from alumni has allowed the library to identify many unknown faces and several images have been "favored" by users. Ranging from mundane shots of construction projects to hallmark images surrounding the burning of Harding's mortgage, the collection is organized loosely by decade and event.

5. **But there's more!** In addition to digitizing individual images, the library has begun scanning the historical collection of Petit Jean yearbooks. Although this project is still behind the scenes, it is scheduled for public release in January of 2010 and will be available through the **Library Services** portion of the library's website.

4. **And – yes – even more!** Pictures and *Petit Jeans* provide wonderful visual images of the university's past, but *The Bison* newspaper contains the core content news from the history of Harding. In conjunction with *The Bison* office, the library made a searchable index of past issues of *The Bison* at <http://thebison.harding.edu/index.php/archives>. Special thanks for this project go to Librarian Emeritus Winnie Bell and to Glen Tankersley.

3. **Pictures, yearbooks, papers . . . what's missing? Videos!** The library's final foray into digital preservation and access was the creation of Brackett Library's space within Harding's iTunesU site. <http://www.harding.edu/itunesu/>. The current collection includes slideshows used by HU and HUGSR Admissions and a discussion of the Twilight series that took place during the annual Christian School Librarians Conference.

2. **Summer Conferences.** In May, Brackett Library hosted the Christian College Librarians' Conference on the university campus. Conference highlights included the discussion of academic integrity, the emergence of technology in academic libraries, and a behind-the-scenes tour of the Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock. In July, the annual Christian School Librarian conference was also hosted.

1. **The reason we're here: students, students everywhere.** Technology is wonderful and online access to material is vital, but what purpose do they serve if students are not connecting with the information? In spite of the increased availability of online resources, it was common to have more than 200 students in the library on evenings and weekends.



Left: A full library doesn't deter students from finding a place to study.