An Academic Early Warning System: Marist Named Computerworld Honors Laureate for Emerging Technology

POUGHKEEPSIE (May 9, 2013) – For the third time in six months, Marist has been recognized for excellence in technology leadership and application by Computerworld, the industry leading news source.

Most recently, the College was named a 2013 Computerworld Honors Laureate in the category of Emerging Technology. The award recognizes the work of a team led by Senior Academic Technology Officer Josh Baron in developing the Open Academic Analytics Initiative (OAAI), an open source system that uses predictive analytics to identify students who may be at risk of failing a course and then allows instructors to deploy a range of intervention strategies. Team members include Associate Professor of Information Systems, Dr. Eitel Lauria, Assistant Professor of Psychology, Dr. Erik Moody and Learning Analytics Specialist, Sandeep Markondiah Jayaprakash.

With a $250,000 Next Generation Learning Challenges grant, funded primarily through the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Baron and his team at Marist led a diverse group of academic and commercial partners, including the College of the Redwood, Cerritos College, Savannah State University, North Carolina A&T State

"It is a great privilege to have been selected as a 2013 Computerworld Honors Laureate, which is testimony to the remarkable team of Marist College students, faculty, staff and project partners who were responsible for the success of our Open Academic Analytics Initiative (OAAI)", said Baron, who served as principal investigator for the OAAI.

For the full press release, visit www.marist.edu/publicaffairs

IMPORTANT!

iLearn will experience a face-lift over the summer. Please continue reading to learn more.
II. SNEAK PEEK OF SUMMER 2013

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! 8/12—8/23

August Institute is a full two weeks of workshops and trainings to prepare all Faculty & Staff for fall 2013. There will be enhancements to iLearn this summer, so please be on the lookout for the full schedule which will be sent via email & on marist.edu by the end of July/beginning of August! Thank you!

IMPORTANT!
The team in Academic Technology will be busy upgrading iLearn to the latest version of Sakai 2.9 this summer. Please keep in mind that all changes will be discussed and featured in our August Institute workshops. Here are a few highlights from what you can expect for Fall 2013.
• Improved user interface
• Big Blue Button—NEW TOOL!
  -New open source video conferencing tool within iLearn! Be able to present and chat with your students online in real time.
• Gradebook 2
  -This Spring we had 3 faculty members piloting Gradebook 2 and all have made very positive comments including:
  Faculty Testimonials:
  “It does everything its predecessor did not!”
  “I find it easy to navigate and look forward to using it for my next courses.”

Over the summer months, Academic Technology will be gearing up for these improvements and many more. This will include updating all documentation such as, Faculty & Student FAQ’s and the iLearn Best Practices manual. Again, please mark your calendars for August as our team will be offering many training opportunities to go through all changes. We look forward to these improvements and hope that many of your concerns that have been voiced in the past will be addressed with this upgrade!

Sneak Peek at August Institute Workshops:
Intro to iLearn, iLearn Refresher, Intro to Big Blue Button, What’s New in 2.9?, iLearn a-la-carte, iLearn & Library, Assistive Technology, Prezi, iPad, and more! There will also be an Open Lab available for Faculty & Staff for walk-ins to answer any and all questions.

AT Workshop Highlights
Spring 2013

PowerPoint vs. Prezi
*Most Popular
Are you looking for new ways to engage your students? Are you ready to spice up your class lectures? Microsoft PowerPoint offers many features to add pizazz to your teaching. If PowerPoint isn’t cutting it anymore, try Prezi! Prezi is an innovative way to present information. Come join us for a fun workshop session comparing PowerPoint and Prezi, and see who comes out on top!

Faculty Testimonials:
“I like the comparison between Prezi and PowerPoint.”
“I’ll convert all my PowerPoint presentations to Prezi.”

iPad for Classroom Teaching
*The Newest Addition
“I want to use my iPad in the classroom.”
“I want my students to use the iPad for this.”
If these thoughts have ever come to mind, please come and participate. This workshop explores the mobility, versatility, and creativity of iPad for classroom teaching. Participants will try out select apps and engage in critical discussion of their potential uses in the classroom such as communication, collaboration, and creation. This workshop is open to current iPad users. Please bring in your iPad to this session.

Faculty Testimonials:
“I will use apps that can be used in getting students involved in projects.”
“All are very useful.”

Upcoming Workshops in May:
Monday, May 13: iLearn Refresher 1-4pm
Monday, May 13: Intro to iLearn pt. I 6-9pm
Tuesday, May 14: iLearn a-la-carte: Communication 10am-12pm
Wednesday, May 15: iLearn a-la-carte: Assessment 10am-12pm
Wednesday, May 15: Intro to iLearn pt. II 6-9pm
Thursday, May 16: iLearn a-la-carte: Learning Materials 10am-12pm

To register: www.marist.edu/facultystaff/cte/workshops.html
Trello is a tool that our office has started to use this semester among our student employees and staff. It is a way to manage and monitor office projects and student progress. With our largest group of student workers than ever before, we started utilizing Trello to issue an orientation, we created checklists with all of their to-do items and then were able to monitor their progress. Once their orientation period was over and they worked through our checklists (filled with training materials), we started using Trello for individual projects.

In the tool you can drag certain members of the group to what is called a “board”, for example, in the board QA Testing. I add four members to that board and they are responsible for QA Testing, they can make checklists, add to-do items and show their overall progress to easily work together since many of the students working on the same project may not work the same hours.

For faculty members, I believe this tool and application would be very useful to share with students especially during group projects. It is a place where students can share ideas and documents plus, monitor the group’s progress fairly easily. Student worker’s John Hailey and Anthony Gallucci agree that if their fellow classmates used Trello during group projects that “it could be extremely helpful to keep each other accountable and be able to keep track of progress when there is no time to meet in the group setting”, said Hailey, an IT major and Marist Junior.

Trello is web-based but has recently released an app for iOS and Android devices, all free. There are so many tools and applications for productivity that it can all become confusing, if you have an app/tool that you haven’t had time to look into, let me know and maybe it could be featured in our next issue!

Any questions/suggestions, email nicole.maziarz@marist.edu.

Happy Finals Week!

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