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Information Services Newsletter November/December 2014

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Authors	Ott, Jennifer;Johnson, Bob
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RHODES COLLEGE

INFORMATION SERVICES DIVISION

November/December 2014

A MESSAGE FROM DR. BOB JOHNSON

IN THIS ISSUE:

SMART CARTS AVAILABLE
ITS INFORMATION SESSIONS
EMS TRAINING

VOLUME 1
ISSUE 1

FAST FACT

Do you know that the Information Help Desk addressed over 350 technology-related questions during the month of October?

CONTACT US

Helpdesk@rhodes.edu

901-843-3890

In inaugurating my appearance in this newsletter as a contributor, I'm happy to use it to announce that

Richie Trenthem is the new director of Information Technology Services (ITS).

And we are all delighted. To be true, Richie Trenthem is the new-ish Director of Information Technology Services (ITS). I say new-ish because he has held the role formally for three months and informally for two more. Since our campus is small and our staff few in number, it had not occurred to me that anyone would not know that Richie held this position, but a few people have asked me lately why I had not made an announcement. Although these announcements usually appear in emails to the facstaff list, this letter seems the most appropriate site to tell the campus the news and describe the leadership team that Richie has joined.

Richie graduated from Rhodes in 1992 and attended the University of Texas (Austin) graduate program in Library Science, writing a book while there on how to use the emerging World Wide Web. After earning his degree at UT he returned to Rhodes to serve in ITS.

While Richie is eminently capable as a technologist, problem solver, and satirical wit, his skills and experience as a librarian set him apart among ITS directors at liberal arts colleges and illustrate the approach Rhodes has pursued since 1999, when the college merged ITS, Library, and Institutional Research (IR) into Information Services.

When Rhodes merged these two departments into a new entity, only a few other liberal arts colleges had made a similar move.

That number is now closer to four dozen, and research institutions such as the University of Memphis and Kansas State have worked on doing the same. Why would schools do this? Because the problems that our colleges want to solve and the ambitions our community members hope to achieve are not simply library, IT, or IR issues. They are information matters, involving the capture or collection of data, the analysis of those data, and the distribution or publication of those analyses. In the process of managing these information issues, professional and physical networks, processing and storage, and access and preservation are mixed together, making it difficult to know where traditional disciplinary or professional boundaries would apply.

In this context, consider the benefits and advantages of hiring someone like Richie who has already demonstrated the value of combining IT and library in his professional life. Incidentally, so has his counterpart, Darlene Brooks, who was a Windows NT domain administrator in her career as a librarian. Dawn Clement Cornies, the IR director has a Computer Science degree and a MBA.

As the college invests money and energy in innovative pedagogies and technologies in projects such as those associated with the new grant from the Mellon Foundation, traditional professional boundaries lose their meaning and value. Hiring and developing cross-trained, interdisciplinary staff members like Darlene Brooks, Dawn Clement Cornies, and their new(-ish) colleague Richie Trenthem is part of putting the college on course to meet these new challenges.

Dr. Bob Johnson, Vice President for Student and Information Services

Smart Carts Now Available

The Smart Cart is an all-in-one technology cart. Included is a 50" display, desktop computer, and Skype camera. Carts can be used in emergency situations where there are technology difficulties or in rooms where technology never existed. They can be easily rolled in to any room with an available network port, plugged in, and have a presentation going in less than 4 minutes.

The included camera adds the ability to have Skype meetings in locations across campus. If a staff or faculty member will notify us in advance, we can make sure there is an available network port in the room in which they intend to use.

ITS Information Sessions

Over the past two semesters, Information Services has hosted monthly training and information sessions for all Departmental Assistants. These sessions are used to communicate changes and updates concerning classroom technology, Moodle, InRhodes, library services, and other areas pertinent to daily work flow.

Questions are encouraged, and we have had lots of positive dialogue. The sessions will continue every second Wednesday of the month and feature new topics and updates. For more information, please contact Jennifer Ott, ottj@rhodes.edu.

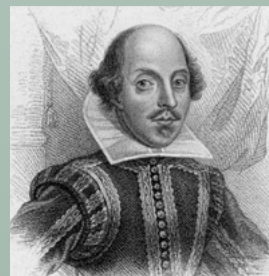
EMS Lunch and Learn

On October 27th, Shamikia Dobbins, Manager of Campus Events, hosted an EMS (Event Management System) lunch-and-learn for all Departmental Assistants. This lunch-and-learn focused on how to reserve space throughout the campus, what information is needed to successfully use the system, how to reserve equipment, and what details are posted to InRhodes. Rose Ann Hicks, Media Center Supervisor, contributed to the session by discussing how to reserve equipment through EMS. Tim Lucas, Superintendent of House Keeping, and Sue Barker from Aramark were also on-hand to discuss room set-up and catering.

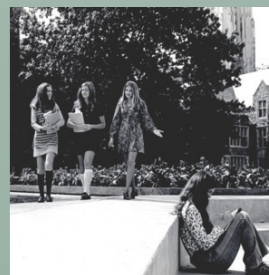
"If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude." - Maya Angelou

DLYNX HIGHLIGHTS

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FARNSWORTH
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FASHION AT
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FEATURED EMPLOYEE: COREY LIPSCHUTZ



COREY, CLASS OF 2015, STARTED WORKING FOR THE COMPUTER DEPT HIS FRESHMAN YEAR. HE WAS PROMOTED TO AN RSAP SUPERVISOR POSITION HIS SOPHOMORE YEAR AND NOW ACTS AS THE DEPOT'S DIRECTOR. COREY IS FROM WESTFIELD, NJ, IS A POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR, AND PLANS TO ATTEND LAW SCHOOL AFTER GRADUATION. HE REMAINS ACTIVE ON THE RHODES COLLEGE MOCK TRIAL TEAM.