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Who Killed the Electric Car? is worth seeing by everyone who is concerned with our world’s environmental situation… read more.
Summer Improvements and New Fall Enhancements

With the arrival of freshman and the return of upper-class students, Technology and Library Services completed the installation of twelve new Dell desktops in the library. The existing desktops were also upgraded, so the library now has a total of 37 Dells. These upgrades have made the library a popular destination as a place for available computers and fast Internet connections.

All residence halls are now fully configured for wireless. The new outdoor wireless areas have also been well-received. As funds become available, TLS will explore other useful outdoor locations for wireless access. The current areas are listed on the wireless access map.

Student bandwidth to the campus Internet connection was expanded over the summer by 3 Mb in anticipation of greater requirements in the fall. TLS continues to monitor the active bandwidth and will proactively increase it as the need arises.

A state-of-the-art media classroom renovation is underway in Mandell 114 using grant money that the college has received. The classroom will facilitate College communications with the community and small businesses.

Lastly, I wanted to wish all students best of luck this semester with academic work and remind everyone to contact the Help Desk at x4357 with any questions.

William A. Brichta
Vice President for Technology and CIO
September 23, 2008
Video Conferencing Facility...

SBA funding has been used to purchase and install a Video Conferencing Facility (VCF) for the Virtual Business Incubator in Southeast Pennsylvania. This installation will enhance Mandell’s Smart Classroom, a cutting-edge facility which enables faculty and conference presenters to conduct on-site, interactive instruction and training using online resources from both the College and the Internet. The installation will mark the creation of the Delaware Valley College Virtual Business Incubator VCF for Southeast Pennsylvania. It will enable the College to provide off-site interactive conferencing and instruction for business entrepreneurs in the designated service region. At a later date, the programming available through the VCF will be complemented by a DVC VBI Web Portal. The portal will be used to stream archived VCF programming and to provide additional content useful to entrepreneurs.

...And Other New Equipment

In addition to the library’s 37 new Dell desktops, computers were also purchased for the 24-hour labs. The commuter lounge has five new computers, and Miller Hall will have new machines as soon as the renovations are complete.

Thanks to the Vet Tech Grant that Dr. Larry Morris received from the Pennsylvania State Education Department, Client Services was able to purchase over $110,000 worth of equipment for Feldman. New computers, printers, Symposiaums (interactive displays) and projectors were added to the Feldman 213 and 216 labs. New projectors were also installed in other classrooms, and new equipment was purchased for the Animal Science and Dairy Science faculty and staff.

Please remember that the generic STUDENT login has been disabled. Students must use their email Usernames and Passwords in order to log into the campus computers. Call the Help Desk at x4357 with any questions.

Return to Newsletter
Welcome back!

I’m happy to announce that Blackboard information is now available 24/7 via the newly created Blackboard web pages. These web pages contain lots of helpful resources, including login instructions and contact information for support issues and training opportunities. Additional web content will be added regularly, so be sure to check back often. If you are not yet familiar with all that Blackboard has to offer, these pages provide a good starting point to learn more.

Also included on the new Blackboard web pages is a course site request form for faculty. This form can be used to streamline the process of requesting course sites for upcoming classes. It can be accessed by clicking on the Course Site Request web page. Although there is no deadline to request course sites, sooner is always best.

Another new feature available on the Blackboard web pages is a login tutorial. This tutorial is a helpful tool that walks users step-by-step through the login process. The video can be paused or played multiple times if needed.

Please note that all Blackboard users now have the ability to change their passwords immediately upon logging into the system. Passwords should be changed regularly and kept secure. Passwords can be up to nineteen characters in length and can use any combination of letters, numbers or special characters.

If you have any questions regarding Blackboard on campus, please feel free to call (x 2467), write (cynthia.renner@delval.edu) or stop by (Elson 115) any time!

With warm regards,

Cindy Renner
Assistant Director of Educational Technology
Sesquicentennial Doorway

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of the college’s founder, Rabbi Joseph Krauskopf. To celebrate this important milestone in our history, the Friends of the Joseph Krauskopf Memorial Library raised the funds to refurbish the front entrance to the library. Several years in the planning, the new Sesquicentennial Doorway will at long last be dedicated on the Friday of Homecoming Weekend. The new library entrance matches the beautiful oak interior of the original library building but is now handicap compliant. The redesigned entryway also prominently features a relief carving of Rabbi Krauskopf. The sculpture was created by Bucks County artist Charles Wells, who chose to capture our founder in a pensive moment, with his arm resting on a book. The statue is carved from Indiana limestone to be uniform with the decorative stonework that was used on the front of the library when it was constructed in 1924. The Friends of the Library hope that their gift to the college community will remind students for years to come of our founder, a man of towering intellect and genius whose vision endures to this day.
Identity Theft

As another school year begins, it is time to take a few minutes to think about how identity theft can affect you. You may not think identity theft is a big deal, but you should think again. Once your identity is stolen, it can cost you thousands of dollars and hundreds of hours to restore your credit. A stolen identity can prevent you from buying a house or a car, stop you from receiving a new credit card, or even prohibit you from getting a job.

College students are particularly easy targets for identity thieves. Since most of you don’t have a lot of credit activity, you may not notice credit issues as fast as people with mortgage or car payments. This gives the credit thieves more time to steal from you and to open more credit cards in your name without your knowledge.

There are some simple ways to protect yourself. The first thing you can do is to look at your credit report. The law gives you the right to examine your credit report for free from all three credit reporting agencies once a year. The legitimate web site to get your free credit reports is www.annualcreditreport.com. There are a lot of other good resources out there. We have created an Identity Theft section on the TLS web pages that can point you in the right direction.

Finally, October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month. Technology Services will be setting up a few open forums where you can learn more about how you can protect yourself. Stay tuned for more information.

Datatel Resource in Admissions

In light of Colleen Perkins’ success as a Datatel support person in Lasker, a Datatel support desk is now located on the third floor of the Admissions building as well. Peggy Patterson-Cini and Loretta Fair will be sharing these duties. We hope that having Datatel customer support more readily available will encourage users to ask questions and make requests. Stop in and say hello to Peggy and Loretta when you are in the area!
**Library LibGuides...**

The library is pleased to announce a new service for faculty called “LibGuides.” With this new tool, the librarians can create a tailored web site for each of your courses. Each site would point to the specific library resources that students would need in order to explore class topics and complete assignments. The site could include not only books and journals but databases links, specific citation formats, useful websites, podcasts, or RSS feeds. You could place the link to each of your sites within your Blackboard pages as well as on the library’s web site.

What does a LibGuide look like? To take a look at a recently created LibGuide for Animal Biotechnology and Conservation, [click here](#).

If you would like a LibGuide for one of your courses, please contact Janet Klaessig at x4957 or janet.klaessig@delval.edu.

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**… And Leisure Collection**

There are now more than 700 books in the library’s leisure collection! The shelves are stocked with mysteries, fantasies, science fiction, graphic novels, thrillers, romances, and much more. Reread the Harry Potter series, or check out the latest novel by Stephen King, John Grisham, Nicholas Sparks, Jodi Picoult, or Stephenie Meyer. Be sure to visit the Shapiro Wing to find your favorite titles. If you’d like to recommend a book, please contact Sarah Penniman (x4968) or fill out a suggestion form at the circulation desk.

A special thanks to Dr. George West, Professor of Business Administration, for reviewing *Who Killed the Electric Car?* And *Earth: The Sequel*. (His essay appears on the following page.) Watch for more reviews of library-owned titles in the near future!
Review of Who Killed the Electric Car? by Dr. George West

Who Killed the Electric Car? is worth seeing by everyone who is concerned with our world’s environmental situation. This summer’s four-dollar-a-gallon gas certainly has gotten our attention! The movie asks the question, “Who is to blame for not having electric cars today?” The oil industry, the auto industry, the government, we the consumers? The real answer is all of the above. The oil industry and auto industry are very invested in the status quo and are therefore extremely resistant to change. The government’s policies are so overly influenced by the special interests of oil and autos that they give only “lip service” to alternative energy sources and conservation. And yes, we consumers are to blame for not paying attention to environmental issues, and for taking the “easy way out” by using cheap energy and not sufficiently voicing (or voting) our environmental concerns with government.

It has been about a decade since the movie was made. However, hope for the future may be justified in the midst of the recent surge in the price of oil. In the July/August 2008 issue of The Atlantic Magazine (pages 84-95), Bob Lutz, Vice Chairman of General Motors, has committed to bringing an electric car—the Chevrolet Volt—to market by 2010. The Volt would be a “plug-in” type, getting its stored power from traditional power-generating sources (the electric power companies) that have the ability to generate electricity from a variety of resources, including the non-fossil types of hydro, solar, geothermal, wind, etc.

Also, you might give a read to a new book, Earth: The Sequel (W.W. Norton & Co., 2008), written by Fred Krupp, president of the Environmental Defense Fund, who argues that current serious initiatives for alternative sources of energy could begin to tackle the problems of fossil-fuel dependence and global warming. Making these alternative energy sources commercially and financially practical is becoming more possible due to the escalating price of fossil fuels. Four-dollar-plus gasoline may be the catalyst for much-needed change.

So, Who Killed the Electric Car? is certainly worth your time. It shows that, in our not too distant past, we—for a variety of non-technical reasons—did not have the “will” to change. If we had done then what GM and others are doing now with concerted effort, the problem would be on its way to amelioration. The movie is clear that it is not just the technical issues which can be resolved, but the “other forces” which then prevented, and could now and in the future prevent, the much-needed change.

By all means, stay tuned in, turned on, and plugged in – and keep asking questions on this vital issue.