

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Office of the Dean

College of Education
110 Education Building, MC-708
1310 South Sixth Street
Champaign, IL 61820-6990



Dear COE Faculty and Staff,

As you probably know by now, I have taken on the new role of Chief Information Officer (CIO) and Associate Dean for Online Learning. One of my initial charges was to review and refine OET's organizational structure, staffing, budget, facilities, and services to better support and enhance the College in both its critical initiatives and core business.

I have worked closely with OET administration to create a "reorganized" OET that will result in enhanced services for faculty, staff, and students. We have made changes that will lead to increased efficiencies and provide better service in a more cost effective manner. Everyone has worked extremely hard this summer to ensure that these changes will not negatively impact fall courses and activities. The information provided below summarizes the changes and highlights the services that are currently available.

Vanna Pianfetti (38 L Education) is taking on a new role as Assistant Dean of Learning Technologies. Vanna will assist in the development and implementation of a strategic plan for educational technology and online learning in the College. She will also provide leadership for the development of the Ubiquitous Learning Institute, expand our research and grant portfolio in the area of learning technologies, and create linkages with other campus efforts.

The *Office of Educational Technology* (OET) has been reorganized into three work units that support the information and technology needs of the College; Communications, Information Technologies, and Learning Technologies. **Linda Alexander** and **Deb Gough (38 Education)** continue to provide clerical support to the information technology and learning technologies groups. They will also provide support for the Communications efforts.

Communications

Chris Harris (38 N Education) is responsible for the communications efforts in the College. He will continue to focus his energies on increasing the College's visibility as a national and international leader in education by working closely with faculty to ensure that their impact through research and teaching is well documented and disseminated in a timely and meaningful manner. Towards this end, Chris is playing an instrumental role in the redesign of the College's website so that information is readily accessible and vehicles are in place to highlight the achievements of faculty and staff. Additionally, Chris is exploring ways in which information may be shared through such things as kiosks in the public spaces, networking among colleagues, and newsletter communications.

Information Technologies (IT)

Ryan Thomas (38 O Education) leads the Information Technologies group. The IT group (**John Barclay, Kim Nystrom, Rachel Weber, Jason Smith, Tim Vruwink, Adam VanDyune, and Brent Metcalf, 16 Education**) provides vital support for the technology

infrastructure used by College administration, departments, faculty, staff, and students. The IT group manages the wired and wireless network in the College and provides secure server and file storage administration. They also support web site and database hosting, learning management systems, and video streaming. In addition, the IT group provides software development and support for web sites and database applications.

Learning Technologies and the Learning Design Lab

Mike Williams (10 D Education) leads the Learning Technologies group. The Learning Technologies group (**Adam Fein, Lynn Burdick, Bob Croy, and Scott Wennerdahl, 10 Education**), in partnership with College faculty, continues to promote and support the use of new media and digital technologies to enhance teaching and learning. The Learning Technologies group provides educational computing resources such as media-ready classrooms and digital media tools, learning technologies, as well as consulting services, outreach/training, and support for media services and software such as Moodle and Adobe Connect.

Adam Fein (10 E Education) is still our liaison with Academic Outreach although now he works full time in the College. Much of his time will be spent co-directing the **Learning Design Lab** with Mike Williams. The Learning Design Lab (LDL), located in Room 10, will support critical initiatives in the College, including online learning, the Ubiquitous Learning Institute, mobile/1 to 1 computing, and digital portfolios. The Learning Design Lab will be the college hub for investigating new and emerging ecologies and technologies for education and will offer full support for online programs, particularly our new Ed.M. initiatives. One of the first tasks for the Learning Design Lab is to partner with departments in the design, development, and support of courses and programs within the expanded online mission of the College.

User Services (Help Desk), Computer Labs, Videoconferencing

As part of the reorganization, other moves have taken place to reallocate space and provide rooms and offices for new College initiatives. We believe that these moves will result in greater efficiency in technology and information services for core activities and enhance collaboration among the College initiatives.

One of the key improvements made this summer was the consolidation of technology support into a centralized *User Services Office*. This office allows College faculty, staff, and students to utilize one point of contact for all computer and technology-related services, whether it be walk-in, phone, or email support. The User Services Office is located in Room 1 of the Education Building and is supported by **Teri Frerichs, Jeremy Jones, Tim Lawyer, and Michael McKelvey**. When you enter the User Services Office you will be greeted at the “Help Desk” where your questions and problems can be addressed. A variety of equipment is also available for checkout from this office. Office hours are from 7:30 am – 7:30 pm on Monday through Thursday, and 7:30 am to 5:00 pm on Friday. You can also get technical assistance or reserve equipment by phone (244-6053) or email (helpdesk@ed.uiuc.edu).

Our two computer labs and GRICL (Statistical Computing Lab) have been merged into one dedicated **Instructional Computing Lab (15/17 Education)**. This computing space has 24 dual-boot (Windows/Mac) computers and all computers will have the same software that was installed on the ICL and GRICL computers. Printing capabilities are available in this lab as well as in Room 1. The lab will be open from 7:30 am-7:30 pm (Monday-Thursday) and 7:30 am-5:00 pm (Friday). The new ICL is open for general use by faculty, staff, and students except when courses are scheduled in the lab. Course reservations for the lab will be posted on the ICL door.

Additionally, five **Mobile Computing Labs** can be reserved for use in the media-ready classrooms in the Education Building and in Room 201 at 505 E. Green Street. Early this fall we will also be installing individual computer workstations throughout the Education Building. These computers will be available at all times for general use. The use of all labs can be scheduled through the User Services Office (Room 1) or by calling 244-6053. First priority will be given to statistical computing classes followed by classes that are heavily dependent on in-class computer usage.

Videoconferencing services are available in Room 201 at 505 E. Green St, as well as through mobile units in the Education Building. These can be scheduled through the User Services Office (Room 1) or by calling 244-9902.

Additional College Space

The technology support operation in the College now has 30% less space than it had previously. The consolidation of labs and reorganization of space has provided two additional conference rooms/seminar rooms in the lower level of the Education Building. Room 28 will be available as a conference room beginning August 22. Rooms 25/31 will become classrooms and will be available for scheduling later in the fall.

I encourage you to take full advantage of the great information and learning technology support services in the College. We are extremely fortunate to have such a capable and dedicated technology support staff! Please feel free to contact me, or anyone on the technology administrative team, with questions or concerns.

Have a wonderful fall semester!

Scott D. Johnson
Associate Dean for Online Learning
& Chief Information Officer