The Division of Instructional Technology is working on exciting projects and activities to meet the needs of the Mason community. Because we constantly seek to improve service, our priorities are dynamic. Current priorities for DoIT in 2010 are as follows:

**Project Priorities**
- [myMason portal](#)
- Lab networking
- The Virginia Virtual Computing Lab

**Operational Priorities**
- Excellent technology classrooms and labs for faculty and students
- A reliable and robust online course system

**Committees and Reports**
- Mason’s reaffirmation of accreditation (QEP and Compliance)
- Academic Technology Advisory Council
- Social Networking at Mason
- Videoconferencing
- The DoIT Annual Report

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**Important Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>07/09</td>
<td>New DoIT website released</td>
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<tr>
<td>09/11</td>
<td>Nominations for Recognition Awards are due</td>
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**Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08/24-28</td>
<td>B.Y.T.E. Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/5-9</td>
<td>ITU Customer Service Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/12</td>
<td>ResearchChannel Annual Meeting, “Changing the Playing Field” hosted by DoIT</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/23</td>
<td>DoIT All-Staff Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/21</td>
<td>ITU Semiannual Projects Briefing (10:00 – 12:00)</td>
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**Behind the New DoIT Logo**

By Susan Kehoe, Director - EdMS

“The logo I created serves as a gateway, a touch point, to get people even more interested in learning about us.”

-Kris Celeste, Graphic Designer, EdMS

It is easy to get swept up in Kris Celeste’s enthusiasm. The George Mason University senior is passionate about graphic design, which is why it’s fitting that out of 15 design choices, Kris’s work was selected as DoIT’s new logo.

Before creating the winning design, Kris researched other technology logos and university sites. After reviewing DoIT’s mission statement, Celeste focused on one main idea. “As a division, DoIT is central to the university’s technology, information, teaching and learning infrastructure,” said Celeste, “so it was critical to create a logo that offered enough information for people to understand DoIT’s role. The logo I created serves as a gateway, a touch point, to get people even more interested in learning about us.”

Kris favors a minimalistic approach to his art. “My work is influenced by color, quality and composition,” he said. Those very attributes attracted Sharon Pitt to Celeste’s logo. “Kris’s image is clean and concise. It captures DoIT’s personalities – we’re creative technologists, artistically balanced,” said Pitt. “Even more alluring is that the logo is interactive - it invites the viewer to make his or her own interpretation of meaning.”

As Sharon points out, good design can be iconic or participatory. “As a service organization, we want our customers to both assign their own interpretation to our logo and to feel invited to participate in and explore the communication medium on which it appears.”
Classroom Upgrades

During this past summer Classroom Technologies (CT) has been busy installing and upgrading technology in university classrooms. CT staff has upgraded the technology in 29 classrooms on the Fairfax campus and 2 classrooms on the Arlington campus. During the upgrade process one additional Computer Classroom was created in Innovation Hall 129. Additionally, 9 new University Technology Enhanced Classrooms were brought online as part of the Engineering Building and the School of Arts Building construction process. CT has also partnered with the Volgenau School of Information Technology and Engineering, the School of Art, and the Department of Social Work to assist with installation of technology in their departmental classrooms. CT continues to engage in the planning and design of university classrooms in the upcoming capital projects including Founders Hall, Thompson Hall, the Science & Technology II addition, and the Administration Building.

Support of Distance Education

Learning Support Services (LSS) provides faculty support for distance education course design and technology integration decision-making. LSS instructional designers and technologists are available for faculty consultations to discuss options and arrange assistance for the delivery, design, and development of web-based courses or course components. LSS also provides a host of free IT Training workshops, access to SkillPort’s online training, as well as lab assistance in the collaborative computer lab and the multimedia computer lab. Additionally, LSS is working with the Provost’s Distance Education Office to develop two projects that will launch this fall:

1) An online Distance Education Faculty Guide that will provide faculty members with information such as where to receive technology assistance for teaching online, faculty readiness to teach in an online environment, pedagogical strategies, examples of exemplary online courses, technology available to enhance the online experience, and assistance for students.

2) A Mason Distance Education (DE) Faculty Community that is hosted on myMason portal. The DE Faculty Community will provide a forum for discussion and resource sharing about pedagogical issues important to distance education at Mason.

Welcome to the New DoIT Website

It takes a village to build a web site; over 16 hours of individual interviews with faculty, staff, students and their parents; countless meetings; and a dedicated staff. But, the end result is worth it!

Thanks to a core group headed by Susan Kehoe and made up of Carey McDaniel, Tamara Schweinsberg, Jennifer Korjus, Kathy Gillette, John Savage, and the Brain Trust of Nathalie Lam, Katrina J oseph and Zane Phipps, our new site is up and running.

Victory shouts from designers Nathalie Lam, Kurt Gallagher, and copy editor Ben Brown echoed down the halls of Innovation the day the site went live. Special thanks to EdMS’s Tim Ingle, Andrew Palumbo, Kris Celeste and Hei-Lun Lee for photos, fixes, and finishing touches.

Now that phase one is complete, expect to see new improvements as functions are added and the site becomes more dynamic. If you have not already, please direct your browsers to doit.gmu.edu, DoIT’s new web site.

Sharon Pitt is on Twitter! Follow Her Here

Cutting Costs With a Virtual Computing Lab

Mason is spearheading a collaborative effort among several Virginia schools to create a Virtual Computing Lab (VCL). When fully implemented, the Virginia VCL will allow members of the Mason community to access many computer programs remotely, eliminating the current necessity of coming to campus or purchasing personal copies of software. Several faculty members from Mason and VCU, as well as their students, are piloting the VCL this summer.

Last month, Mason hosted a Virginia VCL summit which brought together representatives from almost a dozen Virginia schools, both public and private, as well as representatives from the University of Maryland system and IBM. The group discussed the current status of the pilot and came up with the next steps to advance the project. In this era of budget tightening, reducing the number of software licenses that need to be purchased as well as the amount of physical lab space required to run this software is critical to meeting the University’s mission.