May - October 2016 Educational Technology Highlights

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Center for Teaching (CFT):

- **Course Management System (CMS) Selection Committee**
  - As part of a CMS needs assessment and vendor selection process, this committee met twice during the summer of 2016. The first meeting was to discuss impressions of the three CMS vendors who visited campus in the spring and to recommend summer pilots of the three systems. The second meeting focused on a review of those pilots and comparison of the three vendors. The committee, which consisted of 11 faculty, staff, and students representing all ten of Vanderbilt's colleges and schools, made a recommendation for system adoption.

- **Leading Lines Podcast**
  - This new educational podcast is a collaboration of the Center for Teaching, the Vanderbilt Institute for Digital Learning, the Office of Scholarly Communications, and the Associate Provost for Digital Learning. The podcast explores creative, intentional, and effective uses of technology to enhance student learning. Each episode features interviews with educators, researchers, technologists, and others, some from Vanderbilt, some from beyond campus. The podcast launched August 1st, and five episodes have been released thus far.

- **Blended and Online Learning Design (BOLD) Fellows**
  - The NSF-funded BOLD Fellows program helps graduate student / faculty teams build expertise in developing online instructional modules grounded in good course design principles and our understanding of how people learn. This fall, two cohorts of BOLD Fellows met (one returning cohort, one new cohort), moving their individual teaching projects forward. Total participation in this CFT program this fall: 10 faculty and 6 graduate students. Additionally, three former BOLD Fellows presented their educational technology projects at national meetings this summer and fall.

- **Course & Teaching Evaluations at Vanderbilt**
  - Following a series of faculty committee recommendations, Vanderbilt is moving this fall to a new online platform for course evaluations called "Blue," by eXplorance. In addition, students will respond to a new questionnaire. The Center for Teaching, Vice Provost for Learning and Residential Affairs, Office of the University Registrar, and Process and Solution Implementations Team are working together to transition from the legacy VOICE system to the new software.

- **Blackboard Support**
  - The CFT Blackboard team continues responding to Blackboard support requests, both technical and pedagogical, around campus, resolving over 1,000 requests just between August 15th and October 15th. Support is primarily provided via email, although phone and drop-in support is also offered. The team offered Blackboard training sessions during August, prior to the start of classes, and facilitated several

workshops on various aspects of teaching with Blackboard at the request of departments and programs.

- **Educational Technology Consultations**
  - o Of the 189 faculty, staff, and graduate student consultations held at the CFT between May and September 2017, 45 dealt explicitly with educational technology. The most frequently discussed technologies were course management systems (e.g. Blackboard) and classroom response systems (e.g. Poll Everywhere).

The Martha Rivers Ingram Commons:
- **Vanderbilt Visions Curricular Shift**
  - o The Vanderbilt Visions syllabus, part of programming for The Ingram Commons, was completely restructured for implementation in Fall 2016. In addition to VUceptor-facilitated discussions on The Commons Reading, the new Visions structure offered two specific events designed to help groups explore the themes and history presented in the text in greater detail, including a QR Code Tour of Vanderbilt's campus. The QR Code Tour featured recorded clips derived from the text and from personal opinion, allowing groups to explore (physically or through an online interactive map) the landscape of Vanderbilt when Perry Wallace attended in the 1960s. Audio clips were recorded by members of the VUcept Executive Board and by author of *Strong Inside* Andrew Maraniss.

The Jean and Alexander Heard Library:
- Vanderbilt Libraries not only support educational technologies, we also *create* them, ensuring that learning and research benefit from both traditional and cutting edge resources and tools. This work is furthered not only by our library liaisons (25 experts) but also our Scholarly Communications team (4 members), and our digital projects and exhibits team (4 members). The Digital Projects and Scholarly Communications teams have met 5 times since July 1. Among the activities this quarter were:
  - Wikipedia edit-a-thons: Hallowed Grounds (co-sponsored with the Nashville Public Library) Art+Feminism
  - American Library Association wrote about our edit-a-thons in an article titled "Wikipedia: The 'Intellectual Makerspace' of Libraries"
  - Our second two-year postdoctoral fellow for Data Curation for the Sciences and Social Sciences in partnership with the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR)
  - In June 2016, the library sponsored a two-day symposium titled Cultural Heritage at Scale: A Semantic Web Symposium with funding from the Mellon Foundation
  - In August 2016, the library helped to launch a new podcast on educational technologies called Leading Lines with the Center for Teaching and the Vanderbilt Institute for Digital Learning
  - The library sponsors 3 digital scholarship working groups on linked data and the semantic web, open source geographic information systems, and XQuery; these working groups are meeting weekly during the fall semester, and are a mixed group of 8-12 faculty, students, and librarians.
  - The library sponsors digital scholarship workshops each Friday of the fall semester; subjects range from geographic information systems to data visualization to the digital humanities.
  - 4 librarians presented a breakout session at the Center for Teaching's "Teaching at Vanderbilt New Faculty Orientation", titled "Improving Student Research Skills with Embedded Librarians" (fall 2016)
  - 1 Librarian is a member of the Digital Storytelling Working Group, which received a VIDL microgrant (launched fall 2016)
  - Created new research productivity tutorial
  - Library implemented SIPX to manage and streamline the copyright clearance process

Vanderbilt Institute for Digital Learning (VIDL):

- **CORES:**
  - VIDL is now a service center, offering four key services under the CORE System, effective July 1, 2016:
    - Project Management
    - Instructional Design
    - Videography
    - Studio

- **MOOCs:**
  - Android App Components (Course 2 in the Android App Development Specialization) launched September 30th. Total learners: 11,545; active learners: 1001
  - Strategic Innovation for Managers (First Course in the Owen-EDI certificate in Management Fundamentals) in beta-testing; will launch on October 17th
  - Coursera enrollments for courses launched on the new platform (from January 2016 to present):
  - 212,034 learners; 61,583 active learners; 14 faculty/instructors

- **VIDL Self-serve Studio:**
  - Extended hours to promote increased accessibility;
  - Office hours for users to get help troubleshooting;
  - 128 members from schools on campus, since launch in January 2016;
  - Highlight for Fall 2016 - Use of studio for a class project by Prof. Holly Tucker's students.

- **Ongoing Projects:**
  - Conversations with Center for Teaching, Digital Humanities Center, Library, and VUIT - info sessions on the work of each unit, and where we can productively collaborate.
  - Presentations to new faculty at the CFT and Provost orientations, on VIDL and digital learning
  - Data/Research: Sociometric analyses of MOOC forums; narrative analyses of MOOCs; TIPs project on Digital Dominance exploring digital and print media; data repository for MOOC data.
  - Training package on online teaching for graduate students - a collaborative project with CFT.
  - Creating archive of VU's Coursera MOOC videos and assets

Vanderbilt University Information Technology (VUIT):

- **Engineering & Science Building and Innovation Pavilion**
  - The AV Design and Support Team built out three state-of-the-art classrooms. The largest space is configurable to accommodate 60 -120 people and features flat panels around the room enabling students and faculty to share content and breakout into small groups. A smaller space was built out as a shell to accommodate future needs for video conferencing and distance learning. Classes kicked off day one of the fall semester in the new facility. The building as a whole required 45 displays.

- **Supporting the evaluation for the new Course Management System**
  - VUIT joined the effort with the Center for Teaching. Technicians participated in deep dive conversations with vendors to evaluate integration capabilities and system security. As all candidate systems are cloud services, analysts scrutinized contract terms regarding data ownership, service level commitments, and other terms.

- **Supporting the evaluation of BYOD for classroom response system**
    - o VUIT participated in a working group led by the CFT to chart a course for BYOD (bring your own device) classroom response system at Vanderbilt. Technicians engaged in conversations with vendors to evaluate contract terms for these cloud services.

- **Skype for Businesses at Nursing**
    - o VUIT joined faculty and staff to co-present as part of the Hazinski conference at the School of Nursing. Together they shared the pedagogical and technical lessons learned using Skype for Business in instruction.

- **Summertime Upgrades**
    - o In preparation for the new academic year, the AV Design and Support Team got hands-on in 277 classrooms. The team put each classroom through a readiness checklist - including all A/V functionality, lighting, furniture, carpet, room clock, and more. The team found and resolved 54 issues.
    - o 814 classroom, lab, and kiosk desktop systems were reimaged across the academic space. This process included bringing all systems to Windows 10 and Office 2016, life-cycling approximately 25 percent of the systems, cleaning mice and keyboards, and testing all software packages specific to each school or unit.
    - o 14 classrooms were refreshed, including 3 of the largest lecture halls on campus (Stevenson Center 4309 & 4327, Wilson Hall 103).
    - o In the classrooms an updated touch panel interface, designed by faculty, was rolled out.
    - o The wireless network infrastructure was overhauled in six residence halls.
    - o VUIT continues to invest in network infrastructure to meet the growing number of devices on campus. During the first two weeks of school, 28.5% more devices were connected on any given day as compared to last year.

- **New Tech Hub Location**
    - o The VUIT Tech Hub service opened a new location at Featheringill Hall. This "genius bar" like service serves primarily undergraduate students and has proven as popular as the location at the Commons on the Peabody campus with 90 walk-ups in the first week.