



Webmasters' User Group

promoting Web publishing at Western Michigan University since 1999

Meeting Notes: 01/28/09

In Attendance

Joe Fee, Evaluation Center; Susan Kamman, Campus Facility Development; Ken Schaefer, Admissions; Nancy Meister, Student Affairs; Carolyn Fink, Student Affairs; Alex Aivars, College of Arts & Sciences; Julie Scott, OIT; Matt Newton, Extended University Programs; Cindy Wagner, HCOB; Cari DeLong, Physical Plant/Environmental Institute; Daren Webb, Sindecuse; Deb Withee, COE; Amy Brimmer, Human Resources; Madeline McAuley, IME; Pam Rups, OIT; Nancy Kroes, OIT

Update on the WMU Web Initiative

Thom Myers stated in a meeting held on 1/22/09 that the Executive Steering Committee has been formed. It is chaired by Greg Rosine and members are Tim Green, Diane Anderson, Lowell Rinker, and Jim Gilchrist.

The Web Governance Council should be complete by the end of this week. This group is 12-15 members comprised of 1st or 2nd in command at a departmental/college level. It is co-chaired by Thom Myers and Greg Lozeau.

Scott Puckett, who replaces Michael Van Putten in Enrollment Management will be involved with the CMS project along with Bradley Horstman. Thom will be working with Lisa Knutson on a new look for WMU's sites. It is hoped to have a new design in two weeks with work (Bradley Horstman) beginning on a new Dreamweaver template after that. The objective is a new look with a new template and all of us moving into it as soon as possible and then an orderly progression into a CMS.

Update on the Gform to PHP Online Form Conversion

Nancy Kroes has completed the conversion for all of OIT's forms, and, working with Michael Stilson, the webserver admin, and Bradley Horstman, created templates for a contact form and a online information seeking form. There is both an .html file and a .php file for each form. Nancy was able in most cases to simply modify OIT's existing .html form files and then modify the .php script using the field names in the form.

More information regarding this conversion project, and a listing of accounts that are currently using Gform, is found at <http://www.wmich.edu/oit/news/gform.html>. Gform is slated to be removed on May 1, 2009 so all departments utilizing Gform for their online forms will have to be converted before that date or their forms will no longer be working.

Nancy demonstrated converting a Gform to PHP, using a form currently in use by HCOB as an example.

New WUG Secretary – Margaret von Steinen has had to give up her position due to a scheduling conflict. We have two volunteers Kelly Kuhlman and Madeline McAuley, and will recreate the position as co-secretary. Margaret will move into a member-at-large role in the WUG executive committee.

Round Table

Joe Fee, Evaluation Center: has been busy with surveys. Really liking hostedsurvey.com who only charges ten cents per survey to higher ed institutions.

Susan Kamman, Campus Facility Development: has been utilizing Lynda.com and is learning how to pdf documents that her area has to make available to outside sources.

Ken Schaefer, Admissions: has been involved in introducing Scott Puckett around and to the Admissions site. Scott is physically located in Admissions, versus Michael VanPutten who had been physically located in the Registrar's office.

Nancy Meister, Student Life: has created an online video, now available for viewing at <http://www.studentworld.wmich.edu/>

Carolyn Fink, Student Affairs: has been teaching herself PHP. Really recommends the book PHP in 10 Minutes as very concise and effective.

Alex Aivars, College of Arts & Sciences: converting the 27 departments he now manages Web sites for to the WMU template. And will soon be converting all of their Gforms to PHP.

Julie Scott, OIT: has been using PHP for about three years and has a PHP page faculty can use to find out if their courses are e-learning enabled.

Matt Newton, Extended University Programs: merging ATIS and EUP sites into a central site. Working with Live Chat for which they have purchased a license. It is available to the whole University and if you'd like to also use it, contact Matt.

Madeline McAuley, IME: new Webmaster at IME and learning as she goes.

Cindy Wagner, HCOB: doing conference registration using credit cards.

Amy Brimmer, Human Resources: updating job descriptions and has just released a new site for the Recognition Program.

Daren Webb, Sindecuse: just maintaining at this time.

Deb Withee, COE: revamping program pages and content.

Pam Rups, OIT: IT Center name has changed to Faculty Technology Center. They will also now provide help to staff, but not with using the WMU template. Lynda.com has been well received. All 100 accounts were in use before Christmas but accounts are now available again.

Nancy Kroes, OIT: besides working on the Gform to PHP project, have been working with the security area to develop a new site which will bring all security pieces together – PCI, data security, DMCA, P2P education, etc.

Next Meeting - Wednesday, Feb. 25th in the Stewart Clock Tower.