CUNY CIS continues to provide its update on projects to support the University’s faculty and students. The following are our updates on significant technology initiatives through Spring 2013 that support academia.

**CUNY’S BLACKBOARD RESOURCES WEBSITE**

Last year, members of the Committee on Academic Technology’s (CAT’s) Blackboard Subcommittee, the Blackboard Management Council, and CIS created the Blackboard Resources website to share progress on the upgrade to Blackboard 9.1. That website has now become a more general CUNY Blackboard Resources website with information on using Blackboard, Blackboard Mobile, and Blackboard Collaborate at CUNY. The site includes detailed information, such as announcements, news, and user guides, as well as information on CUNY-wide training opportunities. The Blackboard Resources website can be accessed at www.cuny.edu/blackboard or via a tab directly within the Blackboard environment.

**BLACKBOARD MOBILE AND COLLABORATE**

Following completion of the CUNY Blackboard Upgrade in summer 2012, new features and enhancements have continued to be added to Blackboard. Blackboard Mobile became available on a variety of devices including iOS, Android, and BlackBerry smartphones as of February 19, 2013. To use Blackboard Mobile Learn, users will need to subscribe to the app at the cost of $1.99 for 1 year of access or $5.99 for unlimited access (plus any applicable taxes). Much of the functionality of Blackboard is available in the mobile version. However, taking tests and completing timed assignments are not recommended on Blackboard Mobile Learn. Use of Blackboard Mobile should also be optional, rather than a mandatory part of class participation, as not all students may have the necessary equipment or service.

Additionally, CUNY has also licensed Blackboard Collaborate, a full-featured and integrated web conferencing platform. Blackboard Collaborate allows faculty to create virtual classrooms for their courses in which they can engage their students through live audio and video chat, interactive whiteboard tools, and real-time application sharing. More information on Blackboard Collaborate is available at http://www.blackboard.com/platforms/collaborate/overview.aspx.

**CUNY SITE LICENSES**

CUNY CIS purchases and maintains a website detailing the many software programs that are available for your use as a member of the CUNY community. In the interest of economy of scale, CUNY CIS purchases many software licenses for use by students, faculty and staff at all colleges, resulting in significant discounts for the colleges. Software options vary from the Adobe Creative Suite (dedicated to graphic design and video editing), to Gaussian (software that addresses specific areas such as electronic structure modeling), and many more topics of interest to the academic community. Additionally, products such as Microsoft Office can be found on the CUNY eMail on the Citizen CUNY portal.

You can find information on CUNY site licenses under “Software and Vendor Information” at http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/CIS/tech-services/site-licenses.html. This site contains a clear presentation of appropriate use and availability. Most of the software listed can be used by CUNY students, faculty, and staff both at University facilities and at home. The chart in the “Software and Vendors Information” Section delineates any exceptions.

On this site, you will find the “Coordinator Contact Information” list for your school or unit. To request software and/or further information, please e-mail the appropriate coordinator.

**CUNYfirst UPDATE**

CUNYfirst is now the system of record to nearly 220,000 students at 15 colleges: Borough of Manhattan Community College, Bronx Community College, Brooklyn College, College of Staten Island, CUNY School of Law, Hostos Community College, Hunter College, Kingsborough Community College, LaGuardia Community College, Lehman College, St. John’s University, Medgar Evers College, Queens College, Queensborough Community College and York College.

Tools to advise students, interact with them through class rosters, and post grades are also available at those colleges for teaching faculty and advisors. During the 2013 - 2014 school year, student, faculty and adviser tools will be available at remaining CUNY colleges and schools: Baruch College, the City College, CUNY Graduate Center, CUNY Graduate School of Journalism, CUNY School of Professional Studies, John Jay College and Medgar Evers College.

CUNYfirst is also the system of operation for most CUNY Finance, Budgeting, Human Resources and Recruiting functionality at all of our colleges. Currently, 225,000 students, faculty and staff have logged in and are using CUNYfirst applications.

To learn more, contact your college’s CUNYfirst team, or find the link on your college website to learn more about the Project at your campus.
In 2010, four students at The City College of NY (CCNY) developed a social network site in the higher education context. Called InYourClass, the site (www.inyourclass.com) enables students and faculty to see and connect with those in their class and on campus. Through an informal deployment, InYourClass garnered more than a thousand users at CCNY by the end of 2011.

CUNY CIS decided to conduct a more formal pilot in Fall 2012 with four colleges: Kingsborough Community College, Lehman College, The School for Professional Studies, and CCNY. For purposes of the pilot, course information has been preloaded. Students are using InYourClass to exchange ideas and discuss assignments with classmates, find out about events on campus, use the group feature to share information with club members, and share documents. Faculty have used InYourClass to supplement Blackboard as a way to share assignments online or engage in online discussion with students. More than 10,000 new users registered during Fall 2012 on the site, with in an overall adoption rate of 18%.

Given the success of the pilot, CUNY expanded the pilot to five additional campuses for the Spring 2013 term: Brooklyn College, John Jay College, York College, the Macaulay Honors College, and the CUNY Baccalaureate program. InYourClass also launched a mobile version of the website in March 2013.

CUNY IT CONFERENCE
The 11th Annual CUNY IT Conference was held at John Jay College on November 29 and 30, 2012. Approximately 950 people registered to attend the conference. In addition to representatives from the CUNY schools the conference was also attended by members of SUNY, Touro College, the NYC Comptroller’s Office and Weill Cornell Medical College. Topics ranged from Global Data Protection Laws and Regulations to Peer Teaching Assessment Online to Next Generation Library Research. The conference was distinguished by the unprecedented level of collaborative projects represented. George Otte, the University Director of Academic Technology, and organizer of the conference stated, “we have never had, in over a decade, so many cross-campus, cross-discipline, cross-institutional projects and collaborations; whatever other marks of progress you might see, that is a real measure of maturity.”

NETWORK UPGRADES
CUNY CIS continues to upgrade and expand the fiber rings that provide network connectivity to CUNY campuses in Manhattan and the Bronx. The network upgrades for all Manhattan campuses as well as Lehman College were started in the Fall of 2012 and completed by the end of January 2013. CUNY CIS is adding Hostos Community College and Bronx Community College to the fiber network at the end of the Spring 2013 semester. Campuses currently on the fiber network in Manhattan and the Bronx were provided an upgrade of at least 10 times their previous capacity. Hostos and Bronx Community Colleges will realize an upgrade of over 100 times their current capacity.

INTERNET2
The capacity increase in the CUNY fiber network will allow faster access to Internet2. A non-profit membership organization of 208 universities, Internet2 works in conjunction with government and industry to operate a private national Internet Protocol (IP) network reserved for the exclusive use of the US research and education (R&E) community. The Internet2 Network provides connectivity between institutions and connectivity to international research and education networks. The fields of genetics, biochemistry, particle physics and information technology are among some of the many disciplines to have used Internet2 to support high level research.

Questions regarding Internet2 should be directed to the campus IT departments.

LIVE@CUNY
is rapidly replacing legacy e-mail systems to provide students with a seamless, state-of-the-art suite of online communications and collaboration tools and services. In partnership with Microsoft, CIS has deployed the system on 13 campuses. The other campuses in line for deployment over the next year include Hunter College, John Jay College and the Graduate Center.

More than 1 million students now have Live@CUNY email accounts, providing administrative offices and faculty with direct access to these students via email. Of the numerous features, the new email environment gives students a much larger mailbox, account linking (multiple accounts, 1 login), video, chatting, and online storage via SkyDrive. The benefits to the IT offices are also real; those campuses now using Live@CUNY have collectively saved approximately $450,000 per year by no longer having to spend money and resources on providing campus email and can now redirect staff time on other valuable projects.

OTHER SERVICES AT CIS
CIS provides many services that benefit faculty, students and staff. A list of these services is at http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/CIS/tech-services.html. For example, CIS has a Communications & Marketing team that designs and creates content for technology-related activities for both the web and in print. This team designed the Blackboard website at www.cuny.edu/blackboard, working with a committee of Blackboard Administrators. The team can also assist with marketing campaigns. Campus faculty and staff are invited to make use of their expertise by contacting tripti.batra@cuny.edu.

We welcome your comments and ideas for new initiatives at cisfeedback@cuny.edu.