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From the Vice President for Library and Information Technology: Spring 2012

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FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR LIBRARY AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

My colleagues in Library and Information Technology and I were discussing the initiatives for this year, and it became pretty clear that most of what we discussed revolved around how technology and library services will impact the teaching and learning at Bucknell.

Technology is transforming how students learn and how we teach. But the question is how can liberal arts institutions like Bucknell integrate technology in academics and student life without compromising the residential student experience, and at the same time, allow students and faculty opportunities which they would not otherwise have without technology? How do we need to think about classroom spaces and furniture that enhance small group class discussions that use technology in active learning? Increasingly, students are coming to campus with a smartphone or a tablet, but how do we leverage these tools for enhancing their campus experience?

The consumerization of technology is a great opportunity for us to focus on the academic applications of the technology instead on the technology itself. Most students use social media, but can we use this for academics and student engagement? We use Blackboard and Moodle on campus for our learning management system, but how can we use the data on these systems to predict student engagement? This can be a powerful tool to monitor student progress and align it with curricular outcomes.

We have been closely following the Project Tomorrow survey of K-12 students and their parents for the past few years. Below is a sample from last year's study on access to mobile devices by K-12 students.

Personal Access to Mobile Devices				
Device	K-2	Gr. 3-5	Gr. 6-8	Gr. 9-12
Cell Phone (without internet access)	21%	29%	51%	56%
Smartphone	16%	19%	34%	44%
Laptop	37%	42%	60%	67%
MP3	37%	55%	79%	85%
Tablet device (iPad)	10%	8%	13%	10%

*Source: Project Tomorrow (www.tomorrow.org)

The New Media Consortium, an international community of experts in educational technology and the EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative recently released its 2012 Higher Education report. This report is designed to identify and describe emerging technologies likely to have an impact on learning and teaching in higher education. The report identified six key trends likely to impact higher education in the next five years**.

- People expect to be able to work, learn, and study whenever and wherever they want to.
- The technologies we use are increasingly cloud-based, and our notions of IT support are decentralized.
- The world of work is increasingly collaborative, driving changes in the way student projects are structured.
- The abundance of resources and relationships made easily accessible via the Internet is increasingly challenging us to revisit our roles as educators.
- Education paradigms are shifting to include online learning, hybrid learning and collaborative models.
- There is a new emphasis in the classroom on more challenge-based and active learning.

This is an exciting time to be a part of a team that is exploring these opportunities at Bucknell.

**Source: www.nmc.org

Cheers, Param

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