

Fall 1999

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Getting OK with Y2K

by Glenn Fisher, Systems Integrator
gfisher@bucknell.edu

Have you taken a little time to assess how the Year 2000 may affect your computer? Have you thought about how exciting your life at Bucknell University will be next year? Do you fret about the World as we know it coming to an end? If the answers are Yes, Yes, and No, then that's terrific! If you do fret, perhaps what follows here may make you a little less anxious about the next New Year at Bucknell.

Let's start with some background about what's commonly called the "Y2K Bug" or "Year 2000 Problem." The difficulty originates from the early days of the computer industry when computer memory and disk storage was so expensive that every extra character was costly to maintain. To save time and space, early computer programs identified years by only the last two digits - assuming "19" as the century (e.g. "1967" = "67"). As January 1, 2000 approaches, these computers and programs

will see the new year as "00," and in some cases this will be interpreted incorrectly as "1900." This is the root of the Year 2000 problem. The problem could cause System Failure, Corrupted Data, or Lost Information.

Over the past several years, many people at Bucknell having been working diligently to assess, remediate and test the university's Year 2000 readiness. The great news is "We're OK with Y2K".

What does "remediate" mean in the world of computers? Remediate means to patch, fix, repair, upgrade or replace computer processors and software that can't handle the Year 2000. Everything begins with assessment and identification of mission-critical processes. Starting with the most visible of these, the campus Network and administrative computing platforms, new purchases were scrutinized for their Year 2000 readiness. Even after reviewing vendor supplied Year 2000 compliance statements, Bucknell chose to conduct our own tests. This assures us that equipment and software will function next year with the same reliability we enjoy today. Our 3 Com network equipment, SCT BANNER software, Datel Benefactor software, and SUN, Compaq and IBM computers which serve as hosts for these systems, have been successfully tested. The testing

proves we can deliver course content materials, file services documents, and Internet services across campus. We know we can register students for classes, process schedules and grades, print billing statements, pay our vendors and employees, process student financial aid, record gifts and pledges from alumni, and transact business as usual.

What needs to be patched or fixed? ISR staff members reviewed the operating systems used by our desktop computers on campus. The MAC and UNIX systems are Year 2000 compliant. The Windows systems need to be patched. Whether you're a student, staff member or friend of the university, access the Web application we developed to make life easy to fix your Windows95 or Windows98 system. Go to our web page <http://www.isr.bucknell.edu/y2000/index.html> to find the appropriate link and patch for your office or home computer. While you're there, you will see a good deal more Year 2000 information.

Stop fretting! Look forward to a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Y2K.

New Staff

C-D Rom Burning

Student Voicemail

Optimize with Opscan

Tolhurst Butler's Gift

The Tortoise and the Hare

JSTOR

Meet the ISR staff!

Information Services and Resources
The Circulation Department.

Mary Jean Woland, Lona Sholly,
Mary Lou Neidig, Amy Golder-Cooper,
Cami Fink and Bud Hiller



Managing Editor: Jennifer Perdue
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Chris Weber, and Mary Jean Woland
Photographer: Debra Balducci

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May we introduce our NEW STAFF...

by Jennifer Perdue, Supervisor of Acquisitions and Interlibrary Loan
perduej@bucknell.edu



Front row: Glen Himes, Nate Rupp, Michelle Fundock. Back row: Jeremy Dreese, Gordy Peck, Seth Greiner.

Jeremy Dreese graduated from Bucknell with a B.S. in computer Science in 1998, and worked for Lockheed Martin as a Systems Administrator. As the Engineering Computing Systems Integrator, he will help support the College of Engineering's computing needs by providing systems and application support for UNIX and Windows systems, supporting instructional uses of computers in the college, and maintaining the college's web presence.

Interesting Fact: He just got married October 30th.

Gordy Peck holds a B.S. in Business Management from Penn State, and previously worked as a LAN administrator at Krautramer Branson before coming to Bucknell. As a Systems Integrator, Gordy will be working on the campus network and NT servers.

Interesting Fact: Gordy enjoys hunting, flyfishing, mountain biking, backpacking and working out at the gym. He has his parachute jump certificate.

Seth Greiner, a recent graduate of Geneva College, Beaver Falls, PA, is working here until June, 2000 in the capacity of Client Services Analyst. His job entails supporting and maintaining software and network capabilities at the desktop level in Administrative Departments.

Interesting Fact: He's never had a

cavity, and he has his pilot's license.

Glenn Himes, Ph.D., University of Nebraska, Lincoln, spent several years in England, where he was the Principal Lecturer in Instructional Technology at Sheffield Hallam University. As Bucknell's Humanities Instructional Technology Specialist, Glenn supports the humanities faculty in the utilization and development of various kinds of instructional technology.

Interesting Fact: Glenn has a penchant for old Victorian era coffee-table books, which he collects.

Nathan Rupp is our new Catalog/Electronic Resources Librarian. In this capacity he serves as a resource for the library catalog department in accomplishing difficult cataloging tasks, and investigates and implements new ways of providing access to information, particularly information that is accessed electronically. Before he came to BU, he was the Technical Services Librarian at the University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, Indiana. He received both his Bachelor's (history) and MLIS from San Jose State University, San Jose, California.

Interesting Fact: Nate has lived in 4 different states in this decade.

Michelle Fundock previously worked as a Systems Analyst for Svedala Pyro in Danville, PA before coming to Bucknell. She graduated from the University of Maryland and has been supporting databases and application software for over 15 years. At Bucknell, Michelle's title is Systems Integrator. She supports the Banner Finance and Human Resources Systems. "I truly love this job because I enjoy the interaction with end users and ISR personnel, working with Oracle products and tools, having access to changing technologies, and being on a campus with such a wide range of tools and opportunities to learn."

Interesting Fact: Michelle's hobbies include fishing, gardening, walking and photography.

Mary Ann Johansson previously worked for the Federal Government near Washington D.C. for 11 years. She is the Computer Services Liaison for Engineering, the Physical Plant, International Education, the President's Office, the VP for Academic Affairs, and the VP for Finance and Administration.

Interesting Fact: She grew up in the Danville area and decided to move back after her time in Washington.

Student Voicemail

by Tara Fulton, Associate Director
of Library and Information Services
and Sue Swanger,
Telecommunications Technician

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Just after fall break, voicemail service was made available to students living in residence halls and in campus-owned fraternities. Some benefits of voicemail that students are reporting include:

- **Privacy** – Roommates used to share answering machines and hear each others' messages.
- **Security** – Voicemail cannot be inadvertently deleted by one's roommates.
- **Individuality** – Students can customize their greeting, especially appreciated by graduating seniors who are receiving calls from prospective employers.
- **Traveling** – Students conducting internships or on special program trips can still get voicemail.
- **Speed** – Some students get urgent messages more quickly than via email, since they check their phone messages more frequently (others go online more frequently).
- **Call waiting** – Students are missing fewer urgent phone calls.

Faculty and administrators will want to be aware that students do not have all of the features we were able to deliver to campus-supplied phones. For example, students have a ten message maximum, and their

maximum message length is 90 seconds. They cannot forward their messages, nor can they create an extended absence greeting.

One very useful feature is the distribution list, which works similarly to a nickname or listserv on email. You can set up a distribution list for a class or a student organization or any other group and broadcast a message to everyone simultaneously. Under unusual circumstances, such as inclement weather closings or utility disruptions, we can broadcast campus-wide messages to all affected students.

We have begun to explore the issues related to offering voicemail to students living off-campus, and will keep you updated about the prospects for offering that service.

For specific questions, please send email to phoneoffice@bucknell.edu or call 71810. To read more about voicemail, see the website at <http://www.isr.bucknell.edu/phones/students/>

CD-ROM Burning — Technology Courtyard Feature Highlight

by Robin Jarrell, Client Services
Intern and Marcy Siegler,
Technology/Media Consultant

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In this regular column, we'll be featuring information about equipment in the Technology Courtyard. Located on the first floor of the Bertrand Library, adjacent to the Technology Desk, the Technology Courtyard is a collection of 28 high-end self-service multimedia stations, including fast computers, large monitors, scanners, video and audio editing stations, CD-ROM burners, QuickCams and other equipment. If you haven't already stopped by the Technology Courtyard, we hope that you soon will.

This month's feature is CD-ROM burning. There are two CD-ROM burners, one connected to a Windows machine and the other to a Macintosh. The CD-ROM burners let you create your own CD-ROMs, containing either audio files or computer data. You can use a CD-ROM burner to permanently archive files or data, store digital video clips or audio files, save a collection of digital photographs, or store a large project such as an instructional application or class presentation. These are just a few uses of the CD-ROM burning stations.

For assistance in using the CD-ROM burners, stop by the Technology Desk any time the Library is open.

Everything OLD is NEW Again...

by Kathleen McQuiston, Librarian/Program Manager for Information Resources Selection

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The growing number of electronic resources currently available has done much to improve researchers access to current information but very few products have focused on older scholarly literature. Until JSTOR, that is. JSTOR (pronounced jay store) is a full image archive of approximately 100 core, scholarly journals in a number of disciplines. It provides cover-to-cover images of complete runs of the publications, going back to the first issue. Millions and millions of pages have been scanned into JSTOR and the number keeps growing each year.

JSTOR is not intended to be a substitute for current subscriptions to journals. It is updated regularly but since it is designed to be an archive, it does not provide access to current issues. There is a gap, usually 2 to 5 years, between the most recently published issue and the date of the most recent issues included in JSTOR.

Although the primary purpose of JSTOR is to preserve the back issues of these important journals, it does much, much more. It is a fully searchable database and therefore provides increased access to a wealth of scholarly articles, some of which go back to the 1800's. Without JSTOR much of the material in these articles would be virtually inaccessible to scholars unless they read the journal issues from cover to cover! You can search the text of the entire database or limit your search to keywords in the title or abstract, specific journals or date of publication.

Browsing journal issues is also possible in JSTOR. After selecting a title, you will be presented with a range of volumes available for that title. From there, you can select a volume, an issue within that volume, and then a specific article.

You can print the articles as they appeared in the original publications. Once you have identified an article, select "Print" from the JSTOR toolbar

at the left of the screen and you will be presented with printing options. (Unfortunately, simply using the print button on your browser will not work.) The JSTOR Printing option requires the use of a special helper application called JPRINT, which you can easily download to your computer. JPRINT allows you to send an article directly to a printer while you continue working in your browser. JPRINT is generally faster and consumes less disk space and memory than using Adobe Acrobat. Selecting the Adobe Acrobat printing option will download a PDF version of the article, which may be printed immediately, or saved and printed later.

JSTOR is available for searching by members of the Bucknell community while on campus. You can access it through the Library's alphabetical list of databases or by pointing your browser directly to www.jstor.org. To learn more about JSTOR, contact the Reference Desk or Kathleen McQuiston, *mcquisto@bucknell.edu*, x73309.



AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES :

African American Review*
Callaloo*
Journal of Black Studies*
Journal of Blacks in Higher Education*
Journal of Negro Education*
Journal of Negro History*
Transition*

ANTHROPOLOGY:

Annual Review of Anthropology*
Anthropology Today*
Current Anthropology*
The Journal of the Royal
Anthropological Institute/Man*
The Journal of the RAI
of Great Britain and Ireland
Proceedings of the
Royal Anthropological Institute*

ASIAN STUDIES :

China Journal*†
Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies*
Journal of Asian Studies*
Monumenta Nipponica
Pacific Affairs*

ECOLOGY:

Annual Review of
Ecology and Systematics*
Ecological Applications*
Ecological Monographs*
Ecology*
Journal of Animal Ecology
Journal of Ecology*

ECONOMICS :

American Economic Review*
Econometrica*
Economic Journal*
Journal of Applied Econometrics*
Journal of Economic History*
Journal of Economic Literature*
Journal of Economic Perspectives*
Journal of Industrial Economics*
Journal of Money, Credit and Banking*
Journal of Political Economy*
Quarterly Journal of Economics*
Review of Economic Studies*
Review of Economics and Statistics*

EDUCATION:

Journal of Blacks in Higher Education*
Journal of Higher Education*
Journal of Negro Education*
Sociology of Education*

FINANCE :

Journal of Business*
Journal of Finance*
Journal of Financial and
Quantitative Analysis*
Journal of Money, Credit and Banking*
Review of Financial Studies*

HISTORY:

American Historical Review*
American Quarterly*
Eighteenth-Century Studies*
Journal of American History*
Journal of Economic History*
Journal of Military History*
Journal of Modern History*
Journal of Negro History*
Journal of Southern History*
Journal of the History of Ideas*
Renaissance Quarterly*
Reviews in American History*
Speculum*
Studies in the Renaissance*
William and Mary Quarterly*

LITERATURE

African American Review*
American Literature*
Callaloo*
ELH*
MLN*
Nineteenth-Century Literature
Representations*
Shakespeare Quarterly*
Speculum*
Transition
Yale French Studies*

MATHEMATICS

American Journal of Mathematics
American Mathematical Monthly*
Annals of Mathematics*
Journal of Symbolic Logic*
Journal of the
American Mathematical Society*
Mathematics of Computation*
Proceedings of the
American Mathematical Society*
SIAM Journal on Applied Mathematics*
SIAM Journal on Numerical Analysis*
SIAM Review*
Transactions of the
American Mathematical Society*

PHILOSOPHY:

Ethics
Journal of Philosophy*
Journal of Symbolic Logic*
Mind*
Nous*
Philosophical Perspectives*
Philosophical Quarterly*
Philosophical Review*
Philosophy and

Phenomenological Research*
Philosophy and Public Affairs*

POLITICAL SCIENCE :

American Journal of International Law*
American Journal of Political Science*
American Political Science Review*
International Organization*
Journal of Politics*
Philosophy and Public Affairs*
Political Science Quarterly*
Proceedings of the American
Political Science Association*
Public Opinion Quarterly*
World Politics*

POPULATION/DEMOGRAPHY

Demography*
Family Planning Perspectives*
International Family Planning Perspectives*
Population and Development Review*
Population: An English Selection*
Population Index*
Population Studies*
Studies in Family Planning*

SOCIOLOGY:

American Journal of Sociology*
American Sociological Review*
Annual Review of Sociology*
Contemporary Sociology: a Journal of
Reviews*
Journal of Health and Social Behavior*
Public Opinion quarterly*
Social Psychology Quarterly*
Sociology of Education*

STATISTICS :

Annals of Applied Probability*
Annals of Mathematical Statistics*
Annals of Probability*
Annals of Statistics*
Biometrika*
Journal of the American Statistical
Association*
Journal of the Royal Statistiucal Society,
Series A: Statistics in Society*
Journal of the Royal Statistiucal Society,
Series B: Statistical Methodology*†
Journal of the Royal Statistiucal Society,
Series C: Applied Statistics
Journal of the Royal Statistiucal Society,
Series D: The Statistician*
Statistical Science*

<http://www.jstor.org/>
JSTOR Journals as of October 1999
**currently available online.*
Journals are listed in multiple fields when appropriate.
† This journal currently appears online under a former title.
For information about JSTOR at Bucknell, contact
Kathleen McQuiston (mcquisto@bucknell.edu)



Samuel Johnson's world-famous dictionary; *An Offering of Swans* inscribed by Oliver St. John Gogarty; a fine facsimile of the works of Shakespeare from the library of Thomas Hardy with his autograph poem, "To Shakespeare After Three Hundred Years" - these exceptional rarities are part of the gift to Special Collections from the estate of Charles Tolhurst Butler.

Tolhurst Butler's Gift of SUPERB RARITIES

by Doris Dysinger, Curator, Special Collections/University Archives
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Fountain Lawn Library of Dr. LaFayette Butler who, in 1975, willed the rich array of manuscripts and imprints that formed the basis of Special Collections.

The two-volume set of *A Dictionary of the English Language in which Words are Deduced from Their Originals* . . . was printed on handmade laid paper in London by W. Strahan in 1775. The spine titles are gold-tooled. Title pages are rendered in black and red. Samuel Johnson's monumental work includes a History of the Language, and an English Grammar. Earlier dictionaries had been compiled, but none approached the comprehensive scope Johnson produced in nine short years. With 43,500 words included, the dictionary illustrates usage with 118,000 quotations of writers who range from the Elizabethan period to Johnson and his contemporaries, covering the full body of English literature. Ten years later, an eight-volume edition of William Shakespeare's works was completed, Johnson's greatest achievement in literary criticism.

Another valuable portion of the Tolhurst Butler gift is a grouping of Thomas Hardy materials. Like Samuel Johnson, Hardy was a fervent Shakespeare devotee. He owned a facsimile of the 1st folio edition published in London by Methuen and Company in 1910, an imprint that became the inspiration for "To Shakespeare After Three Hundred Years," written in autograph on the front endpaper. The rest of the grouping consists of three proofs of the poem with Hardy's holograph corrections, #17 of 50 copies printed for Florence Emily Hardy by Sir

Sydney Carlyle Cockerell at the renowned Chiswick Press in London, and a series of autograph signed letters. The first proof is dated July 26, 1916. The second was completed on August 6. Three days later, final corrections had been made, and the last proof was ready for printing.

Greatly enhancing the bibliographic significance of the grouping, the correspondence is concurrent with the three proofs. Letters of Florence Hardy to Sydney Cockerell dated July 16, and August 7, 1916, discuss corrections for typesetting and page layout of the poem. The July 22 message of Chiswick's compositors and pressmen to Cockerell details the printing papers and binding selected for the imprint. They also comment on the first proof in a letter sent to him on July 26.

Both the facsimile edition, and the material related to Hardy's poem expand opportunities for research on William Shakespeare in Special Collections where Shakespearean holdings include extremely rare contemporary volumes. *Mr. William Shakespeares Comedies, Histories, & Tragedies: Published According to the True Originall Copies*, printed in London by Tho. Cotes, for Robert Allot, and are sold at the Signe of the Blacke Beare in Pauls Church-yard, 1632, is one of the 17th-century titles. There are also four plays bound in fine leather and printed in 1623 - 1624 by I. Iaggard and Ed. Blount of London: *All's Well That Ends Well*, *The First Part of Henry the Sixth*, *The Life and Death of King John*, and *The Winter's Tale*. All of these early titles were donated by LaFayette Butler.

continued on next page

Born November 11, 1912, in Springfield, Massachusetts, the son of the late LaFayette L. and Vivian Tolhurst Butler, Tolhurst Butler graduated with honors from Blair Academy, Blairstown, New Jersey. After earning his degree in Chemical Engineering *cum laude* at Princeton University, he was a U.S. Army Air Force instructor at Wright Field before serving in the European Theater. After the war, Mr. Butler managed the family business, started his own company, and taught school in the Hazelton area. Always a strong supporter of education, he financed many Hazelton area students in their pursuit of a college degree.

Two years before his death in 1999, Mr. Butler funded the refurbishing and upgrade of the Tolhurst Butler User Education Lab. The materials in his recent bequest were from the

The Tortoise and the Hare

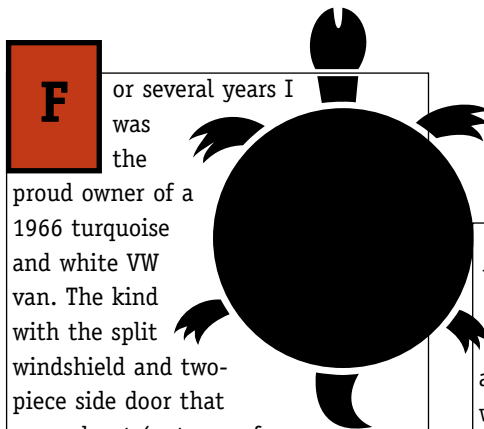
by Roberta Sims, Univeristy Webmaster
rsims@bucknell.edu

continued from page 8

The last segment of the Tolhurst Butler gift, two works by Oliver St. John Gogarty, correlate perfectly with the library's extensive holdings in Irish literature. Surpassed only by Trinity College in Dublin, our Special Collections contains the world's second largest collection of Gogarty materials. At the center of the Irish Literary Renaissance, physician and writer Oliver St. John Gogarty was a dynamic Republican Senator committed to Ireland's freedom and self-rule.

The copy of his *An Offering of Swans* has two inscriptions that establish clear provenance. The wording of the first is of particular literary interest: "Inscribed for my Generous friend Cornelius Meygante by Oliver St. John Gogarty April 29, 1940." The second inscription is a tribute to the knowledge and inspired collecting instincts of the man who created the Fountain Lawn Library: "For LaFayette Butler with much appreciation from his friend William J. Phillips[?] November 18, 1961" *William Butler Yeats: A Memoir by Oliver St. John Gogarty* is inscribed by the author's son: "To LaFayette Butler from Oliver D. Gogarty 28/9/68."

The works of Samuel Johnson, Thomas Hardy, and Oliver St. John Gogarty, while diverse in era, subject matter, and geographic derivation, share one remarkable commonality — all are landmark literary classics. The Ellen Clarke Bertrand Library is truly grateful for the magnificent gift of these superb resources from long-time friend and supporter Tolhurst Butler.



For several years I was the proud owner of a 1966 turquoise and white VW van. The kind with the split windshield and two-piece side door that opened out (not one of those tacky sliding doors). She was a beauty. People stared and whistled and honked when I pattered down the road. And I mean pattered. She was slow as in tortoise slow. Slow as in "time to read the historical markers" on one of my numerous trips cross-country. When she hit a hill, loaded down with gear, kids, and the requisite dog - forget it. Flip on the four-way flashers and find a good tune on the radio.

Bucknell's web page was sort of like that VW van. A beauty to look at, but if you were logging in from home, you could cook a couple of perfect sunny-side up eggs while it was loading. My old van transported me from Alaska to Pennsylvania and back again, but in the long run, it just wasn't worth it. I parted with that van with mixed feelings of relief and regret, similar to how I felt when I launched the new web page in mid-June. (For the sake of nostalgia, the previous site can still be seen: http://www.bucknell.edu/web_info/web_history/). (You can also see pictures of my old VW van on my web page, but that's another story...)

Which brings us to our sleek

new site. She flies. You'll barely have time to pour a cup of coffee. Even on steep hills (a 28.8K modem), she practically purrs. We hope you will appreciate this finely tuned page which we've trimmed down to the bare necessities without any loss in elegance.

All of the same links are still there (well, with a few minor changes). After a few sessions, we feel confident that what is lost in detail is made up for in speed.

As always, we are hard at work refining and enhancing Bucknell's web site. If you have questions about web development, or would like some assistance on your web site, please email rsims@bucknell.edu, or Ext. 73310. Happy motoring.



You're in Control with "Your Account" or How to Never Have a Library Fine Again

by Mary Jean Woland, Supervisor of Circulation and
Bill Burkholder, Systems Administrator

woland@bucknell.edu and burkhldr@bucknell.edu

Can't remember what you checked out of the library? Tired of paying overdue fines? Wish you could renew through magic? Your wishes have come true! The Bertrand Library's new online catalog includes a feature called "Your Account." With this feature, all library borrowers can now access their own personal library account to see what materials are checked out to them, due dates, fines, and books on request. From any networked PC, borrowers can also renew items or cancel a request.

How to Use "Your Account"
Earlier this semester, all employees and students at Bucknell received a letter informing them of their new Personal Identification Number (PIN) to use for accessing personal information on the web. You will need this number to access "Your Account." From the ISR homepage, place the cursor on 'Research Tools & Library Collections' and then slide over to choose 'Online Catalog.' From the top tool bar, choose "Your Account." A new browser window will open up prompting you to enter your ID num-

ber [9-digit Social Security Number] and your PIN. Then simply log in.

What You'll See

The first of the three sections of "Your Account" is a list of the items currently charged to your library account. If a box appears by the title of an item, it means that it is renewable. All undergraduate students are permitted two 3-week renewals on books. Graduate students and other borrowers with semester-long borrowing periods may renew twice. Borrowers with annual borrowing periods can renew items at the Circulation Desk.

If you have recalled a book (requested it from another borrower), you will see that title listed in the section called "Titles on request by this account." If you no longer need an item you have recalled, you can cancel the recall by clicking the "Cancel Request" button. You will also see any fines or fees that are currently charged to your library account. Remember, however, that this total will not include any fines on items that are still checked out to you and overdue.

At the top of the "Your Account"

page and at the bottom are buttons to close this window or get help. It is important to remember to close the window when you are finished looking at your account information, especially if you are using a public computer.

Don't Forget That PIN!!

Lost your PIN? Can't remember ever getting it?? Don't panic! The staff of the Technology/Media Desk in the library are trained to help. If you lose or forget your PIN, simply stop by the Tech Desk with your university photo ID to get a new one. To maintain security, staff cannot assign or confirm PINs over the telephone.

This PIN is one that you'll want to be sure to remember. In addition to providing access to the library catalog's "Your Account" feature, your PIN is also required for other web-based services. Students can access their personal information menu and view grades and financial aid information. Faculty can also view class rosters, student schedules and similar information. And anyone who receives a university invoice can view details of transactions and see up-to-date account balances.

ERes hits 200 mark!

by Bud Hiller, Reserves Technical Assistant

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When Emmanuel Eze placed some materials on e-reserve this fall for a philosophy course, he had no idea that his course was the 200th to be created on our ERes electronic reserve system this semester! ERes has grown at an extraordinary rate since its inception with a 15-course trial in the spring of 1997. The number of courses in ERes doubled from 30 in the fall of 1997 to 60 in the spring of 1998, and then expanded to 100 courses on-line in the fall of 1998 and 160 by last spring. Thanks to all for helping to make this project a success!

Electronic Reserve System

Optimize your Time with Opscan

by Dianne Guffey and Peggy Straub, Systems Operators
guffey@bucknell.edu and straub@bucknell.edu

Are you tired of spending countless hours scoring an exam? Or maybe you're tired of counting responses for evaluations and surveys by hand. If so, we may have the solution for you. ISR offers the Opscan service to the Bucknell Community.

Survey tabulation, once requiring hours of stacking and sorting, can now be managed quickly and easily using the NCS Opscan7 OMR scanner. Optical Mark Reading is a technology for reading paper forms containing an array of small circles, or "bubbles". Individuals "mark", or fill in, the bubbles according to their particular responses to a test or questionnaire. Each mark is then read by the scanner and interpreted by software into a character that is readable by various software packages.

Our particular model of scanner has a dual read head, enabling it to read both sides of a form simultaneously. Another feature is an ink read head, enabling the scanner to interpret marks made by either a pencil or blue/black ink. Supplied software is used to set up forms, as well as to interpret data read by the scanner. The data from the scanner is written to a text file or formatted into a report, depending on the software package with which the data is processed. After we have your completed forms, turnaround time varies based on the application. For example, exams generally take anywhere from one to two hours, whereas surveys require from one hour to several

days, depending on the software package used for processing.

We currently have three different software packages available for use with the scanner:

- MicroTestScoreII Plus is used for scanning, scoring and reporting of exams.
- NCS Survey is available for creating, scanning and reporting information on surveys.
- Along with the reporting feature, we have the capability to combine and compare different batches of surveys.

We have been using this package for faculty course evaluations in several academic departments the past few years. The software has met departmental needs and saved the departmental secretaries valuable time, since they no longer have to count responses by hand.

Scantools for Windows allows us to take almost any single or multiple-page form and create an application for the scanner. If the form you want to use isn't already a "scannable" form, we can have one created for you. The cost to do so will vary, depending on the particular form. We also have general purpose answer sheets that can be used to do surveys.

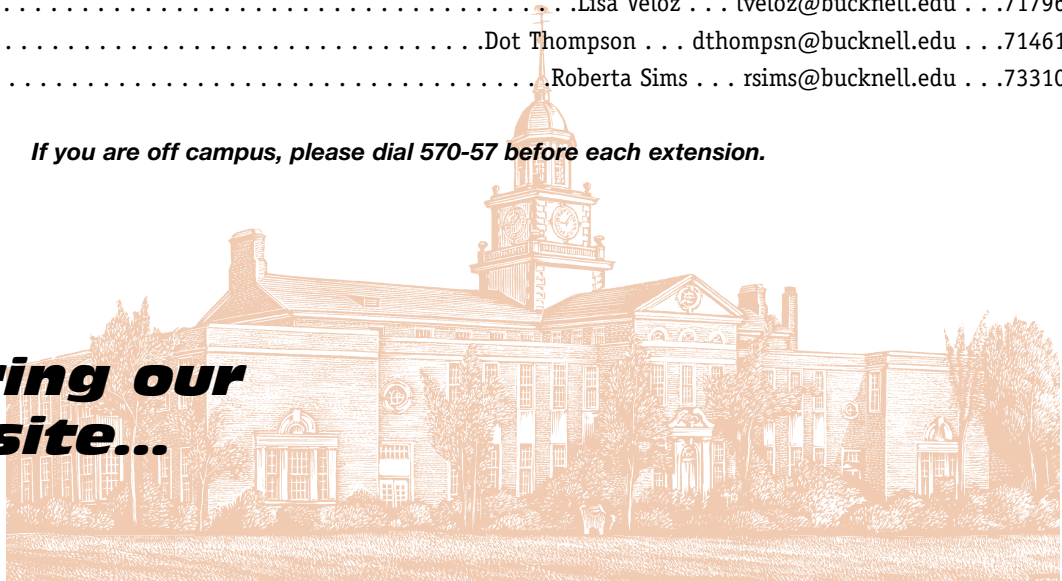
After the forms have been read, Scantools creates a text file of the scanned data. The datafile can then be converted into various formats, the most popular of which is an Excel spreadsheet.

If you feel that Opscan service could be of benefit to your department, please contact Dianne Guffey (*guffey@bucknell.edu*) or Peggy Straub (*straub@bucknell.edu*) at Ext. 71795[CW1]. You can get more information on these services by checking out our Web page: <http://www.isr.bucknell.edu/opscan/>

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If you are off campus, please dial 570-57 before each extension.

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