Agenda

- **Introduction** - Lee Sanders

- **Canvas - Our VLE** – Matt Sherlock, Assistant Director, Learning Environments

- An update on the **British Science Festival** – Claire Doggett, British Science Festival Project Manager Birmingham 2014 & Professor Malcolm Press, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Knowledge Transfer)

- **Alumni Volunteering** – Kerrie Holland, Deputy Head of Alumni Relations

- Questions
Reasons for Change

✓ WebCT coming to the end of its natural life (and well past sell by date)

✓ Growing importance of distance learning and blended learning models

✓ Disruption in market caused by Fees, MOOCS, Alternative Modes of Delivery
Where are we now?

- Canvas available from 19\textsuperscript{th} July 2013
- Over 80% courses migrated for October 2013
- Steady migration over 13/14
- Panopto implemented as University wide lecture capture service spring 2014
- WebCT to be decommissioned September 2014
Why Canvas?

The ‘abilities’ of Canvas:

- Usability
- Adoptability
- Interoperability
- Scalability
- Reliability
- Mobility
- Agility
- Connectability
Please indicate your level of agreement with the statement: **Canvas is easy to use.**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

**Overall, in order of about 84% Agree or strongly agree**
Student Feedback – useful for studies

Please indicate your level of agreement with the statement: I find Canvas useful for my studies.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Overall, in order of about 88% Agree or strongly agree
1. CoSS – Online Marking & Feedback

• Online marking and feedback for all UG coursework using Canvas’s SpeedGrader tool
1. CoSS – Online Marking & Feedback

**Student Benefits**

- More time to submit coursework
- More timely, readable and richer feedback

**Professional Services Staff Benefits:**

- No more queues for hand-ins or collection
- Automatic archiving
2. Careers Network, Online PSA

• Developing new online pathway for the Personal Skills Award (Foundation)
• Delivering employability skills development to a larger number of students.
2. Careers Network, Online PSA

• Modular approach offered by Canvas leads students through course
• Discussion forums provide learning community and peer support
• Quizzes and peer assessment tools provide opportunities to check learning
• Panopto used to create engaging materials
3. Birmingham Project

- Student Canvas site to support pilot implementation of Curriculum Review project
- Ideal mechanism for multidisciplinary teams of staff and students to collaborate
3. Birmingham Project

- Announcements to students and groups provide easy consistent communications
- Document store provides access to latest versions of forms and files
- Analytics regarding student engagement
- Meeting room booking managed though calendar tool
And many more...

- CPD
- Staff Induction
- Learning Communities
- Virtual Careers Fair
- Virtual Counselling
British Science Festival
Birmingham
6-11 September 2014
Alumni Volunteering

Kerrie Holland
Deputy Head of Alumni Relations
Alumni Volunteering at Birmingham

- 180,000 Alumni across 180 countries
- Alumni Volunteer Manager and College Alumni Relations Managers in CoSS, CAL, EPS and MDS
- 774 Alumni volunteered 4,700 hours last year
Benefits of Alumni Volunteering

- Increases alumni affinity and propensity to give
- Enables the University to achieve the ‘nice-to-haves’
- Access to expertise, networks and opportunities
- Enriches student experience
- Impact on employability
Examples

- Careers support - 250 alumni are currently mentoring students, others offer internships and work experience
- Alumni volunteers translated original letters and diaries from the Hans Schwarz collection from German to English
- International student recruitment – alumni attend fairs, pre-departure briefings and answer queries
- Judges for BUAFTAs, Alumni Impact Fund and the Research Poster Conference
- Interview panels
- High-profile advocacy
‘Mass’ volunteering

- Mixture of activities to have broad appeal e.g. internship leads, mentoring, translations, conservation, international recruitment, careers event speakers.
- Non-campus based ‘remote’ opportunities
- Mass promotion to alumni
  - Alumni publications
  - Linked In/facebook groups
  - Specific e-mail comms
'Object of the Month' Researcher

Using the University's Research and Cultural Collections online database of extraordinary art, antiquities, historic physics instruments, zoological specimens and medical artefacts, you will choose an object and carry out targeted research to produce a short article (250 words) for a general audience. 'Object of the Month' is a way for the University to celebrate the richness and diversity of our collections and to shine a spotlight on a different piece each month. We would like our alumni to bring their interest, enthusiasm and research skills to this project, working on one piece at a time to a monthly calendar.

You will have good written communication and research skills. You can access training and support from the curatorial team as required via e-mail/phone if you are carrying out the project remotely, or are welcome to come on to campus to meet the team, review progress and handle the artefacts where appropriate. We are looking for up to 12 research volunteers per year and welcome applications from anywhere in the world - as our collections are online you do not need to be able to get to campus.

The time required for each research project will vary depending on the object and level of detail, but we anticipate a minimum time requirement for research and writing of 6 hours. You must be able to work to a deadline. Please e-mail holland@bham.ac.uk with a brief statement of the reason for your interest, an overview of your relevant skills and, if possible, an idea of the type of object you would be interested in researching.

Doctoral Researchers for Alumni Profiles/Podcast

Alumni 'buddies' in Seoul and Pietermaritzburg (SA) for student interns

London 'Olympic' Pub Night Organisers
‘Bespoke’ volunteering

- Finding a specific person for a specific role
- Finding a specific role for a specific person we are keen to engage
- Guest lectures (MBA Leadership Programme), Leadership Mentoring, Advocacy, Event Hosting, Interviewees, Panel Members, Advisory Boards..
Volunteering Opportunities

☐ Keen to identify opportunities for alumni to get involved
☐ Could alumni volunteers support your activities?
☐ Be creative!
☐ Email Frances Worrall f.l.worrall@bham.ac.uk
Questions?

Feedback and topic requests can be sent to:
internalcomms@contacts.bham.ac.uk

For the latest staff news and events visit:
intranet.birmingham.ac.uk

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