VALPO VIRAL

News and Updates from the Office of Information Technology

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INAUGURAL VALPO TECH TALKS

Over the course of this past month, we have had the opportunity to host multiple "Tech Talks," each highlighting different aspects of technology and how it affects our day-to-day lives.

In the first week, we heard from three different individuals, the first being our own Director of Support Services in IT, Jessica Wilson! Jess had explained how technology touches everything from data sharing to recycling and dating to policing. She went on to explain how technology is impacting our reality and why we should be paying more attention. Professor Aaron Preston presented on the role that technologies of communication have played in the rise and decline of rationality in the West, culminating in the dysfunction of our current "post-truth" predicament. Additionally, we learned about the National Archives and Records Administration, Presidential Libraries, and the importance of securing Government Documents with Professor Jennifer Hora.

Going onto the second week, Professor Bob educated us on the Age of AI and invited us to think about the question of "Have we become slave to our desire to be "always connected" in real time?" As well as, "Is it truly possible to "disconnect" or have we become "chained to our devices?" An interesting presentation done by Professor Dan Maquire included talking about steganography which is the process of embedding messages as payload in other content. He discussed the methods and combinations of message hiding and ramification of proactively intercepting to relay the message.

The following week included an interesting take on how we might enroll technology in the service of humanity rather than the other way around, in terms of convenience and connection, which was discussed by Dr. Joseph Renow. Dr. Holly Cross provided us with an important perspective on how social media may usher in the rise and downfall of the mental health revolution we are currently in with increased incidences of Autism, ADHD, depression, and other disorders.

Our last week involved three presentations that invited us to think about aspects that could relate to many different individuals. First, Pastor Jim reviewed the arguments for and against the practice of celebrating Holy Communion online, as well as, how and why some traditions have completely escaped the controversy. Professor Bob invited us to ponder on the idea that technology and the use of "smart devices" may be testing our 4th Amendment, which is the right to privacy. Last, but certainly not least, Professor Adrienne Moore talked about Telemedicine's impact on healthcare and how it taught us lessons on how to mobilize quickly, innovate, and collaborate.

We want to thank each presenter for sharing their highly educational perspectives and thoughts, as well as everyone who had attended any of our events, which collectively made our month of Tech Talks such a success and we look forward to offering the series again next year! Mark your calendars!

DIGITAL LITERACY PROJECT

We often make assumptions that campus community members know how to complete technology related tasks but that isn't always the case. In an effort to provide some support for situations like these, the IT student staff and Library staff are working together to identify key topics, generate short how-to videos and share those through the use of social media.

We will be featuring things like campus printing, Interlibrary loans, student employment in DataVU, AMS, Remote access to campus computer labs and more.

If you have ideas of other topics that might be helpful, please share those with us by emailing the IT Help Desk at helpdesk@valpo.edu.

CYBERSECURITY TRAINING

We continue to keep campus safety a top priority and since we all are in the business of continued education, new online training sessions are being pushed out to staff to ensure they have the tools and understanding to help keep their accounts as well as the University's accounts, safe.

These trainings are completed at your own pace and should, on average, take about one hour to complete. Having trouble logging in and complete the training? Email us to let us know.

Departments will be selected and emailed with information about the training as it becomes available to their area. Please keep an eye out for an email from IT with instructions.

NEW IT POLICY- PLEASE REVIEW

All employees will be assigned a Google account along with access to the University's network file storage and other systems. That account, and the accompanying email address, will be the employee's official work Google account and email address. An employee's official Google account, including email and other data and documents stored therein, is property of the University. However, intellectual property related to faculty research and creative work is covered by the Intellectual Property policy, located on the University's General Counsel website. No employee shall have a reasonable expectation of privacy in the account or its contents. Upon termination of employment, accounts will be handled based on the employee's current primary role, with the exception of an employee who held a primary role of faculty at some point in the past. An employee's primary role can be found by looking up their information on the University's online directory: https://www.valpo.edu/directory

To review the policy in its entirety, please visit: https://tinyurl.com/NewITpolicy

Happy Halloween