Apereo Newsletter - June/July 2018   <u>View this email in your browser</u>

There's a lot going on in the Apereo Community this month! This is the first of two combined newsletters for the Northern Hemisphere summer; the second, August/September, will publish in later September. Keep reading for the latest on release news, project reports, and exciting events ahead. We welcome feedback on the format, as well as contributions large and small, from think pieces to snippets. Send them along to **newsletter@apereo.org**!
The deadline for the August/September 2018 Newsletter is September 15, with publication around September 21.

From the Executive Director

The New Apereo Individual Membership Offering
Become a Friend of Apereo <u>here</u>.

For almost a decade and a half, the Apereo Foundation and its predecessors have been at the forefront of creating and sustaining software in the service of higher education. We've accomplished that by creating innovative and functional open source software collaboratively – made by education, for education. And we've had the help of many, many, talented and committed individuals in that work.

Apereo and its predecessors have always sought to recognize that talent and commitment through a series of programs. These programs – such as the fellows program and teaching innovation awards – have both celebrated commitment and success, and helped take those successes to the next level by providing small amounts of funding to facilitate networking good practice and further development.

As the Apereo family of software and related communities grows larger, we'd like to support and extend those recognition programs with a new membership category – individual membership. This doesn't mean that Apereo is changing its primary focus on supporting higher education institutions and serving the academic mission, but it does mean we're finding new ways to involve, enlarge, and engage our community in doing just that.

programs, individual members can help make a difference. In return, we'll help you stay in touch by providing discounted access to Open Apereo, our main annual conference ($50 discount) , and give you a say in how Apereo is run by voting for a reserved individual member board seat.

Apereo's work has touched countless learners and faculty worldwide, helping to both extend access to learning opportunities, and to enrich them. Help us sustain and extend that by becoming an individual member of the Apereo Foundation today. if you have a friend or colleague who might not have seen this message, please pass it on.

Board Elections

At the annual meeting held during Open Apereo last month in Montreal, the Apereo Board of Directors saw three members depart at the end of their terms and the election of three new members for three-year terms. The Board extends thanks to departing members Tim Carroll, Theresa Rowe, and John Lewis for their years of service to the Apereo Community.

Congratulations and a warm welcome to the new Board members pictured below, left to right: Anne Marie Scott, University of Edinburgh; Francois Campbell, OpenCollab; and Boeta Pretorius, North-West University (South Africa).

See the complete bios of these and all board members here.

In Memoriam: David Kahle

David Kahle, CIO of Tufts University and a member of the founding Board of the Apereo Foundation, passed away on Friday, May 11, 2018. He was 51.

learning, teaching and research. David had a particular focus and interest on the user experience, which suffused his contributions to the higher education community at large, and to Apereo. Donations in David's name can be made to Friends of Manchester Trees (getrootedmanchester.org), Manchester Essex Conservation Trust (mect.org) or a land conservation effort of your choice.

Upcoming Events

Second Annual Learning & Student Analytics Conference (LSAC) To Be Held in Amsterdam
October 22-23rd
Hackathon: October 24-25th

For those interested in Learning Analytics, please consider attending the LSAC 2018 (October 22-23rd) and/or follow-on hackathon (October 24-25th) in Amsterdam.

The abstract submission date has been extended to the end of July. The conference includes many panel discussions, numerous presentations and a two-day post-conference hackathon at a location at the heart of Amsterdam. This year's keynote speakers are Dr. McKay and Ian Dolphin from the Apereo Foundation

We the organisers encourage your input and welcome presentations on a broad range of data-driven, evidence-based topics. If you have a research, illuminating case studies, policy positions, best or worst practices then upload them. If you wish for feedback on your research, share and hack code, data, services, designs, ML practices, policy position or a paperthon then consider submitting your themes to the hackathon.

Please note as part of the hackathon we are collecting data via an LA risk mitigation survey. Please share your experiences.

Looking forward to seeing you at the end of October, on behalf of the conference organisers.

Alan Mark Berg

Project News

Free Opencast Developer Workshop:
November 13-15, Osnabrück, Germany

For everybody who is interested in contributing to Opencast, or adopting it to the local needs, ELAN e.V. is offering a developer workshop. The admission is free!

The workshop's target attendees are software developers with some knowledge of Java, XML, HTML, and Javascript. Knowledge of shell-scripts and Python is welcome but not required.

Find out more about the workshop at:

https://opencast.org/2018-07-11-opencast-developer-workshop.html

Sakai 12.2 Released

I'm pleased to announce on behalf of the worldwide community that Sakai 12.2 is released and available for downloading!

Sakai 12.2 has 105 improvements in place including

- 21 fixes in Assignments

- 18 fixes in Tests & Quizzes (Samigo)

- 8 fixes in Gradebook

- 6 fixes in Forums

- 6 fixes in Portal

[Read More](#) from Wilma Hodges

uPortal Collaboration Recap from Open Apereo

Thirteen people attended at least part of the uPortal Collaboration Days at Open Apereo 2018 to discuss what they would like to see in the uPortal project over the next year and how they are planning on contributing.

Continuing the theme of 2018 being the year of the front end, much of the discussion focused on a number of front ends that are in the discovery or development phase. You can see screenshots of some of this work in the University of Edinburgh and Unicon presentationon user-centeredfrontends, UW-Madison's presentation on adopting uPortal Home, or in the Stateof the uPortal Project presentation. We also talked a lot about implementing frontends using web components. You can find out more about that in Unicon's presentation on integrating Equella and uPortal or in Bryan 's presentations on his web components and polymer, web component-based authoring tool, and NGDLE via web components.

We also talked about the backend. This included the University of Edinburgh's notification project (we hope to see their code soon!), release engineering, and moving to a newer version of Java.

[Read More](#) **from Jim Helwig**

uPortal Release

uPortal 5.1.2 has been released on Maven Central and GitHub.
This release includes 35 improvements and fixes, including:

- improvements to SmartLDAP

- improvements to thread pool for rendering

- fixes to bean loading during gradle init tasks

- fixes to the post-content layout region

For a full list of changes see: https://github.com/Jasig/uPortal/releases/tag/v5.1.2

uPortal Annual Report for 2018

This past year's annual report for uPortal is [now available](#). **The uPortal project had a strong year from May 2017 through April 2018.**
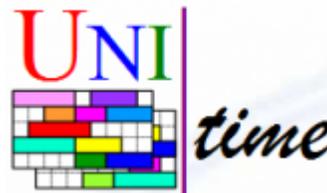
graduating from Apereo Incubation.
- **Life: Almost 100 versioned releases of uPortal ecosystem software products.**
- **Participation: 7 new core contributors, 1 new core committer, 16 presentations, 1,350+ list posts, 5 calls/webinars, and 2 meetups.**
- **Financial responsibility: 3 sustaining subscribers and $26,000 recurring revenue with a $51,000 fund balance.**

In the year to come, we hope to see continued growth, life, and participation in the community. We encourage community members to engage on the lists, enhance documentation, contribute a fix, or add a feature, propose a new sub-project, become an Apereo member, and become a uPortal Supporting Subscriber.

Detailed information on releases, project intake, participation, finances, challenges, opportunities, and calls to action can be found in the published report.

uPortal Steering Committee

UniTime Release 4.3

In this version, all course timetabling solver pages have been rewritten to GWT, making the whole course timetabling component of UniTime fully localizable. There have been a number of new features added. These include the ability to export timetable grids into Excel, improved filtering of available suggestions, and the ability for a week to start on any day.

UniTime's scripting and reporting capabilities have been greatly improved in UniTime 4.3 too. The scripts and reports recognize more parameter types. There is a new Script API, and the scripts can be scheduled to run periodically within UniTime.

A lot of work has been done to support the collection of student course requests and batch scheduling of students. An interface has been developed to allow custom validations and student course eligibility checking to be plugged into the Student Course Request page. There are more capabilities for academic advisors (and other administrative users) to monitor student progress as well as course availabilities. There have also been a number of improvements made to the batch student scheduling solver.

Read more

Wanted: Your Institution's Story

If you've not looked at www.apereo.org recently, go take a look. On the landing page we're promoting Apereo sponsored software in a series of what we're calling "vignettes". These are short stories and messages about what problems adopters are using Apereo software to help solve. Check out the solutions we've highlighted so far!

Have a message about Apereo software you'd like to communicate to others? Why not take five minutes to write a vignette and forward to ed@apereo.org