

Media Services then and now

The Media Services Department of Augusta State University had humble beginnings in the lower level of Hardy Hall. Part of Reese Library, the Learning Center primarily housed 16mm films and audio cassettes along with minimal equipment necessary to display them. The Learning Center were responsible for the delivery of equipment to the academic classrooms. We had four overhead projectors and five televisions and vcrs on carts. The student assistants shuttled the equipment and materials back and forth all over campus.

Over the years our services changed to meet the changing demand for digital media. We installed two GSAMS classrooms in Hardy Hall where video conferencing was utilized by the University as well as the community. We also installed several student computer stations equipped with flat bed scanners to accommodate the continued request for digital images. We also installed two video editing systems for students to utilize for their video presentations. In such a small space we designed our video editing systems to stack the components on top each other to minimize the space needed. Throughout the years space has been a problem for our department. With the constant request for specialized equipment and portable sound equipment has increased.

Dr. Weber brought the architects who were responsible for the design of our replacement building by to tour our area. He was shocked that we could provide so much resources to students in such a crowded atmosphere. He recommended to the president that they needed to increase the square footage allotment for the Media Center and Computer Services Department.

In July 2004 when construction was completed on University Hall, Media Center was relocated to the lower level of the new building. In the original plan we had a Media Center, Curriculum Center, Non Print Storage, a Classroom Services area, a Master Control, One GSAMS Classroom, Office Separate from Video Distribution, and a Head In room for the control systems.

In recent years we had our accreditation visit from SACS, their recommendation to the administration was a recommendation for added space, adequate staffing for support, and adequate space.

When we moved into our new space we found that the GSAMS Classroom Room 162 and the Head End Control Room 166 had been reallocated for other needs without our notification. The GSAMS Classroom has been used for special lab for faculty needing computer lab requirements, and The Head End Room has been turned into a wiring room for the telephone system.

During our busiest semesters, Fall and Spring we provide technology support to the faculty.

We provide training classes on specific software for faculty who require their students to complete a presentation. The student presentations range from simple powerpoint to

creating their own portfolios and web pages with digital images and video clips, to full production of video for marketing, communication classes, and teacher education student teaching. We offer color printing, and transparency printing to the students. We are the only lab available for students who offer flat bed scanners, and specialized software programs for the use in some of their projects. We also provide specialized materials for Learning Support for their students. These students require the use of specific computer software, video tapes, audio tapes, and print materials.

We have a growing need for providing video production. During Fiscal Year 2006 we provided a promotional dvd for the following requests: Girl Scouts of America, Golf Team Promotional, Lyceum Japanese Drums promotional program, and Task Force Community Impact. We provided Richmond County Historical Society with a DVD for their presentation needs, we also have provided many video materials for faculty and staff on campus. We are currently working with Public Relations on new materials for their marketing program. With this new project we are specifically targeting special departments and their programs. We also provided 43 Orientation Classes for ASU 1000. We offer 6 Open Houses a year to students, faculty, and staff. Our Instructional Specialist provided a Adobe Photo Shop Workshop to the students, faculty and staff which was attended by teaching faculty, as well as staff from the IT Department. We are constantly encouraging faculty, staff, and students to come in to the Media Center and see what resources are available and how we can assist them with their projects. The students really appreciate the assistance we give them. They are always bringing donuts to show their appreciation to our staff.

We also provide a poster printers which are used as much by the faculty as well as the students. We also provide many resources from the Curriculum Center, which are used by many current teachers in the CSRA area. We provide check out materials from videos, audio, cd, and dvds, as well as laptops, video cameras, and digital cameras. We offer two viewing rooms that are available to students and faculty. The registrar schedules specific need classes in these rooms. The Viewing Rooms are utilized for multiple formats for video, audio, and film. They are also used for web cast viewing and video conferencing.

The Classroom Services area provide support to all academic classrooms on campus. They provide technical support to the classrooms. The staff offer many classes each semester to the faculty, staff, and students with the operation of the technical equipment installed in the classroom. They also provide support and expertise to the staff at the PAT when they have special events that require specialized equipment. The Classroom Services Unit provided equipment deliveries to all areas on campus with at total of 405 deliveries. They also received 2,760 classroom assistance calls during the fiscal year.

We also have a support unit for Special Events on campus. They are responsible for all events that require sound reinforcement or presentation systems on campus and sometimes off campus. During Fiscal Year FY 2006 we provided support to 441 special events on and off campus.

Since our relocation to University Hall we have assisted over 31,371 patrons alone over FY 2006. We also have provided over 624 dvd duplications, 689 copies of foreign language cds, and 190 video duplications this year. We also have provided installations of instructional stations in Fine Arts D3, Allgood Hall Conference Room 113, and New Science Building 1008 and 1002. We also provided 24 Satellite Downlinks for the Department of Continuing Education.

The Summer is our quiet time, we have smaller and less groups of students and we utilize our time by repairing equipment, cataloging new materials, maintenance in the classrooms, as well as maintenance on the computers.

We accomplish all this with a very minimal staff and limited equipment resources. Each year I must request additional funding for equipment replacement and repairs and part time staff. Our budget does not cover the replacement of projection bulbs on campus. We usually go through 2 projection bulbs a year.

This year we again had to give up some of our space in Allgood Hall. Our satellite office was reassigned for Student Housing. Dr. Sullivan also provided us with equipment storage space down the hall we desperately needed. As long as the student, faculty, and staff continue to increase we will have continued requests for our services. We are faced by many challenges every day and will continue to provide specialized support to all our users. Our statistics are available online for anyone who would like to see the amount of services we provide each year.

At Media Services we are committed to provide support to our faculty, staff, and students at Augusta State University. This can be seen each year by our growing number of students, faculty and staff that we provide service to.

We invite any one to come by the Media Center and let us show them the many resources we have to offer.