A very important portal
New Web interface will customize info & services for the College community

"There's a tiny door in my office, Maxine. It's a portal and it takes you inside John Malkovich. You see the world through John Malkovich's eyes... and then after about 15 minutes, you're spit out... into a ditch on the side of the New Jersey Turnpike."

—from the movie, Being John Malkovich

The good news about the upcoming My Plattsburgh Web portal, slated for Fall 2008 launch, is that it won't be anything remotely like the one in Being John Malkovich. Nor will it be a secret passage to the Underworld (we hope). It won't enable you to slip surreptitiously between temporal dimensions or commingle with separate realities, as people so casually do in Dr. Who episodes and novels featuring wormholes and stargates.

The My Plattsburgh portal will make it easier for all members of the campus community to acquire information, conduct business online, and carry out their individual campus roles each day.

In contrast to the College's external Web presence, My Plattsburgh will provide a new level of Intranet capability—and it will be individually customized to reduce spam and improve user relevancy.

My Plattsburgh is essentially a Web site that identifies you at log-in. The views you see are the ones that are particularly relevant to you as an individual. Content can be "pushed" (i.e., selected by the College to be sent to you personally) and "pulled" (selected and formatted by you based on your needs and interests).

My Plattsburgh will let users experience the College in ways that reflect each individual's changing relationship with it over time. This aspect can help to establish a person's long-term relationship with the College.

The My Plattsburgh portal will give users convenient Web access to the specific information and services they require every day.

Just one sign-on—at last!
One significant portal benefit that users will gain right away is Single Sign-On (SSO) for all secure campus systems. Using just one log-in with a common NetID and password, users will gain access to:

- ANGEL
- Banner Web
- Campus Desktop Computers
- E-mail
- Faculty/Staff/Student Personal Web Spaces
- Library Databases
- WIDGET (Web Development)
- Wireless Network

Safe & secure
To handle security concerns, NetId passwords used in My Plattsburgh will be more complex. They use at least eight characters that include three of the four

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types: that is, upper-case letters, lower-case letters, numbers, and/or special characters (^, $, #, *, _, !, etc.).

Individuals who have access to Banner Forms will have higher security settings requiring them to sign-in with a password that follows different rules with more frequent changes.

New e-mail: more Ferrari, less Ford
My Plattsburgh users will benefit from an improved campus e-mail system that LIS technology staff have fitted to the package. The new system is quicker and also shows users their quota at a glance.

"We've stripped it down to perform optimally," said T.J. Myers, Coordinator of Helpdesk & ResNet Services. "Tests show it to work very well."

Share those big e-documents
Campus users with a need to store and share large or numerous electronic documents will appreciate the Portal's My Files feature. Individual users get 24/7 Web access to a whopping 100 megabites of storage. Files currently in the Netstor system will not need to be moved, as My Files will simply become the new FTP interface on that server.

Keeping personal data personal
Protecting your personal information is a shared responsibility between individuals and the College. Now LIS is stepping up vigilance by means of a Campus Information Security Committee, which is identifying sensitive information and evaluating the campus systems that contain it.

"We are reviewing all the systems that could be at risk," said Jan McDowell, chair. "We'll be checking for legal compliance, making recommendations for improvements, and teaching colleagues what they need to know to protect themselves."

640K ought to be enough for anybody."
—Bill Gates, 1981

*I never said '640K should be enough for anybody!*"
—Bill Gates, 1996

"Student expectations regarding technology customization in the classroom are closely linked to faculty knowledge and skill. The Net Generation's views on technology in the classroom include the expectation that professors will use technology to better communicate expert knowledge."
—Gregory R. Roberts, Technology and Learning Expectations of the Net Generation

4 Tips for Protecting Your Privacy

1. Before you reveal any personally identifying information, find out how it will be used and whether it will be shared with others.*

2. Put passwords on all your accounts, including your credit card, bank, and phone accounts. Avoid using easily available information, such as your mother's maiden name, your birth date, or your phone number.*

3. Use a secure browser when shopping online to guard the security of your transactions.

4. Always log-off your computer when you are done using it.