Research Administration Program

The Research Administration Program unveiled the ability for individuals to check personal information related to research activities in My VT. The Research Administration Services team created the tab within My VT from content provided by the Office of Sponsored Programs. The My VT team, Web Services and Development, deployed the function in the rollout. The tab contains project authorization notices (PANs), 60-day notices, training on the responsible conduct of research and conflict of interest, compliance protocol reviews, and expirations. The tab also has links to research administration tools such as funding opportunities, limited submissions, compliance tools, and PANs.

This functionality is a small part of the Research Administration Project that seeks to transform the business of doing research at Virginia Tech with innovative electronic tools for proposal development and submission, budgeting, tracking of agreements and contracts, compliance, award management, and collaboration among faculty and staff members.

UC update

Unified Communications and its associated projects continue to upgrade communications infrastructure across Virginia Tech. UC will be installed in new capital projects, the most immediate one being the North End Center, the new facility on Turner Street. The building has 141,000-gross-square-feet of mixed-use office and retail space and an 800-space parking garage. University offices that will relocate here include the Office of the Controller, Human Resources, Internal Audit, Procurement, Diversity and Inclusion, Capital Assets and Financial Management, and several offices within the Division of Research. The building will also serve the Office of the Dean in the College of Science.

In other work, new cabling is underway in Vet Med’s Center for Molecular Medicine and Infectious Disease, and Randolph Hall is nearing readiness for migration to the new system. Preparations for migration are underway in the CNS Warehouse, Kent Square, the Electric Service Facility, and Andrews Information Systems Building. Electronics upgrades are scheduled for mid-spring completion in several buildings.

Find the UC schedule at www.nis.vt.edu/uc/schedule.
Apereo

Apereo is a new not-for-profit entity formed by the merger of Jasig and Sakai. Like its forming organizations, Apereo will foster the creation and sustenance of open source software in support of education and research.

The Apereo portfolio from Sakai includes the Sakai Collaboration and Learning Environment, and the Open Source Portfolio. Sakai is branded at Virginia Tech as Scholar. From the Jasig arena comes uPortal, CAS single sign-on, Bedework Calendaring, and other solutions.

Spring conferences

It’s that time of year for conferences for information technology in higher education.

- ACCS, the Association of Collegiate Computing Services of Virginia, meets March 13-15 in Charlottesville. www.accsva.org
- Ellucian Live. “Summit” was the name for the annual Banner users’ conference. The Ellucian name was announced last year at the conference, and this year the conference will be held April 7-10 in Philadelphia. http://www.ellucian.com/EllucianLive/
- ACUTA, the Association for Information Communications Technology Professionals in Higher Education, hosts its annual conference in San Diego, April 14-17. http://www.acuta.org/wcm/acuta/
- EDUCAUSE’s spring “bundle” of meetings in St. Louis includes the Advanced Core Technologies Initiative, the Security Professionals Conference, and the Enterprise IT Leadership Conference. All are scheduled in the window of time from April 15 to April 18. http://www.educause.edu/conferences-events
- Internet2’s annual meeting is in Arlington, Virginia, April 21-24. http://events.internet2.edu/2013/spring-mm/index.html
- Apereo (see above) meets in its first merged conference in June (June 2-7) in San Diego. http://www.sakaiproject.org/projects/apereo

CNS’s summer

If you have an opportunity to communicate with friends who work elsewhere on campus, please reinforce the importance of early orders for summer telecommunications work. With the ongoing UC project, several capital projects underway or nearing completion, the workload will be particularly heavy.

Some deadlines:
April 20—receipt of orders to be billed this fiscal year
June 30—receipt of orders for work to be completed before the start of Fall semester

The January/February EDUCAUSE review contains an interview with Erv Blythe as one of the recipients of the 2012 EDUCAUSE Leadership Award Winners. www.educause.edu/erol/article/mentoring-self-awareness-and-collaboration-2012-educause-award-winners