Advanced Research Computing and the Virginia Bioinformatics Institute will host the inaugural HPC and Bioinformatics Research Day, a day-long event to connect the campus community’s computational commonwealth. HPC and Bioinformatics Research Day provides an occasion to explore the myriad ways that supercomputing is changing our world and to celebrate Virginia Tech’s contributions. In the morning, Advanced Research Computing labs and Information Technology facilities will host open house tours and VBI will host faculty short talks. A keynote speaker is the lunchtime event. An afternoon panel will discuss the applications of HPC as well as visions for the future. Student work, research labs, and units will be showcased with an evening poster session in Owens Banquet Hall. Watch www.arc.vt.edu for coming information.

Invited presentation

During the week of Virginia Tech’s Spring Break, Marc Zaldivar and Teggin Summers, TLOS, will travel to Japan to present on Virginia Tech’s use of active technologies for engaged learning. As invited speakers at two universities and one conference, Zaldivar and Summers will discuss how Virginia Tech leads higher education with its use of electronic portfolios and other academic technologies to promote reflection on learning and student engagement. The two will speak at a two-day workshop at Kumamoto University, the Ja-Sakai Conference held at Nagoya University, and at Kyoto University.

WebEx and Echo360

WebEx and Echo360 support web-conferencing, instruction, and distance learning. These tools can be used to host live interactive online class sessions with students, and meetings with colleagues. Faculty and staff members, along with graduate assistants are eligible to host meetings, and anyone can be an invited participant. Technology-enhanced Learning and Online Strategies supports the tool. For more information on general usage of WebEx, visit the Virginia Tech-specific FAQ, or Lynda.vt.edu.

Echo360 allows instructors to record lectures and publish those videos to a streaming server, making classroom lectures available for students anywhere, anytime. In addition to classrooms equipped with echo360 capture systems, Echo360 Personal Capture lets instructors record lectures using their own computers, integrating multi-media content seamlessly into online lectures.

Hold the date—HPC Day, April 11

In this issue

- WebEx and echo360
- HPC Day
- Invited presentation
- Focus on HR
- Welcome new employees
- SANS class
- Work underway

Find information
- answers.vt.edu
- computing.vt.edu
- CNS Services
- Unified Communications
- Online Learning and Collaboration Services
- Software Tutorials and Training (lynda)
- security.vt.edu
- antivirus.vt.edu
- Annual Report
- 4help
- Staff Senate
- IT Project Management
Focus on HR

VT employees can opt-in to Virginia Retirement System Hybrid Retirement Plan. Eligible employees, those currently in Plan 1 or Plan 2, have the opportunity to opt-in to the new Hybrid Retirement Plan. Employees have until April 30, 2014 to opt-in for changes effective July 1, 2014. Login to myVRS to determine if the Hybrid Retirement Plan is a good fit for you or visit the university HR’s Hybrid Retirement Plan site for more information.

Register now for the 2014 America Saves Financial Challenge. America Saves is a national campaign which encourages individuals and families to save money and build wealth. Virginia Tech employees are invited to participate in the 2014 America Saves Financial Challenge. The challenge is a free five-week program open through Saturday March 29. To register, visit hokiewellness.hr.vt.edu and click the “2014 America Saves Challenge.”

“Our VT: Building Community at Virginia Tech” is a series of monthly webinars hosted by Human resources. The March webinar is Civil Rights Act, 50th Anniversary, on March 21. both upcoming and past webinars are available from www.hr.vt.edu/great-place-to-work/culture-community/our-vt/.

Welcome to new salaried employees

Joshua Akers, Systems Engineer, NI&S
Kimberly Ervine, Administrative Assistant, TLOS
Michael Ervine, Grants Specialist, Administration and Planning

Dale Pike, Executive Director, TLOS
Tyler Snively, Field Tech, NI&S
Paul Welte, IT Security Analyst, ITSO
Thomas Younce, VTOC Operations Specialist, NI&S

SANS class

Each year, Information Technology and the Information Technology Security Office has provided for a security class by SANS. This year, the class has been postponed from spring break to May, post-graduation break—May 19-24. The class is AUD 507, Auditing Networks, Perimeters, and Systems. For more information, contact the ITSO.

Work underway

- Virginia Tech has awarded a contract for a new business intelligence system to MicroStrategy. The new system replaces aging software, and will expand the functionality of reporting and analytic tools to wider university communities. The contract kicks off a multi-phase data analytics initiative that begins this spring. The implementation projects are managed and coordinated by Enterprise Systems.
- Work is underway for the redesign of Torgersen Museum into a signature TLOS Learning Studio. The high tech/high touch configurable space will be used to house Networked Learning Initiatives activities and to showcase innovative faculty projects involving pedagogical innovation and course redesign across the disciplines.