Virginia Tech Awards

**Shelli Fowler**, executive director of graduate programs and new pedagogies in Learning Technologies and associate professor of English, has received the university’s 2013 Edward S. Diggs Teaching Scholars Award. Shelli’s extensive experience teaching both undergraduate and graduate students and working with faculty in her expertise of teaching and learning, includes teaching 40 to 50 graduate students every semester, receiving outstanding feedback. She developed the Graduate Education Development Institute. She developed a teaching enhancement project called, “Digital Citizenship and Civic Engagement for a Networked World” that will develop a peer-to-peer mentoring program that encourages undergraduates to explore the significance of, think critically about, and decide how best to use web 2.0 tools as active contributors within the context of civic engagement.

**Sue Stewart**, recently retired from Enterprise Systems, has received the university’s 2013 Staff Career Achievement Award. The Staff Career Achievement Award is presented annually to up to five individuals who have distinguished themselves through exemplary performance and service during their university career. Sue planned and facilitated events to promote departmental communications, processed travel, and organized departmental calendars, scheduling, and inventory. “Sue’s courtesy and helpfulness to others was noted many times by other offices on campus and brought many words of thanks to the unit,” said Scott Midkiff. “She was instrumental in the success of various events and in promoting a positive campus image to hundreds of guests from other institutions.”

Stewart was an active member of several staff and administration professional development groups. She was a dedicated supporter of the Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign at Virginia Tech and provided leadership for the division’s participation for many years.

For more on the awards and recipients, see www.vtnews.vt.edu/awards/2013-facstaff-awards.html

**ePortfolio undergraduate student showcase**

The ePortfolio Initiatives office held the inaugural ePortfolio Undergraduate Student Showcase on April 25. A select group of students presented ePortfolios demonstrating qualities such as research, service, professionalism, learning, and mentorship/leadership. Undergraduate students from across the university shared a wide variety of portfolios, and each student spoke about the value of the ePortfolio process.

Students attending the showcase included ePortfolio Peer Mentors, who began working with the ePortfolio Initiatives office in Spring 2013. The ePortfolio Peer Mentors have been blogging about reflective practice and are poised to help fellow students around campus as we approach the final weeks of the semester. The mentors come from a variety of disciplines, including English, Dietetics, the College of Natural Resources and Environment, the Scineering Program, and Business, and they are actively polishing their own ePortfolios for professional development.
Graduates

Each year, we try to recognize individuals who receive new academic degrees. Most of these are Virginia Tech students who are or have recently worked for one of the Information Technology departments. And some are employees who finished degrees at Virginia Tech and at other institutions. All are spring graduates unless noted otherwise.

Enterprise Systems

Bachelor’s degrees

One graduate in computer science

Information Technology Security Office

Bachelor’s degrees

One graduate in computer science

Learning Technologies

Doctoral degree

One graduate in ECE

Bachelor’s degrees

Graduates in Visual Communication Design (3), Communication (3), Theatre Arts and Cinema (2), Interior Design (2)

Network Infrastructure and Services

Master’s degree

One graduate in Information Technology

Bachelor’s degrees

Graduates in Computer Engineering (2), Electrical Engineering, Aerospace Engineering, Electrical Engineering (2)

Campus network upgrade

NI&S has announced a significant network upgrade this summer. Please help spread the word that there will be a planned Internet connectivity outage overnight July 26-27. The announcement follows:

Maintenance activities to upgrade network equipment will interrupt campus access to the Internet on Friday, July 26, 2013, beginning at 11:00 pm. The work will extend to 7:00 am on Saturday, July 27, 2013. This interruption will impact both incoming and outgoing Internet traffic, but will have only minor impact (two to five minutes of disruption) on network traffic that stays local to the campus.

Virginia Tech’s core and border networks provide critical connectivity between the Blacksburg campus and both the commercial Internet and research specific networks in support of the university’s research, academics, and outreach mission. This important upgrade to these core and border network services will pave the way for fully redundant and diverse Internet connectivity for the university.

It is possible the installation may not be completed by the morning of July 27th. If additional time is required, we will utilize the same window of time (11:00 pm until 7:00 am) on the following weekend, August 2nd and 3rd, 2013. We will keep the university community apprised of all activity as it is scheduled and provide reminders as the dates draw closer. Questions may be referred to Network Infrastructure and Services via Ask-CNS@vt.edu or by calling 540-231-6460.