Virginia Tech Geospatial Information Sciences is a new entity formed by the Center for Geospatial Information Technology, a university research center, and the Enterprise GIS within Information Technology. The partnership is designed to advance geospatial science and research through collaborations with Virginia Tech faculty and administrators, research centers, local, state and federal agencies, and external partners.

For more on this partnership, see the VT News story at www.vtnews.vt.edu/story.php?relyear=2009&itemno=492. Other sources are the Enterprise GIS website (www.gis.it.vt.edu) and the website of the Center for Geospatial Information Technology (www.cgit.vt.edu).

Summer HPC in Charlottesville

This summer’s High Performance Parallel Computing boot camp is the third year for this Virginia Tech-University of Virginia collaboration. The boot camp was held June 8-12, with participants and instructors from both institutions. For more on the boot camp, watch for postings on the Advance Research computing website, www.arc.vt.edu.

Targeted at graduate students, as well as staff and faculty members with computational science and engineering problems that demand high performance, the boot camp introduces participants to the basics of high-performance parallel computing. Goals include the ability to optimize sequential applications, and to understand the basics of parallel computing. Attendees use high-end resources at two universities.

Faculty development for the 21st century

“In the 21st century, colleges and universities need to consider faculty development programs in the same way that they view academic programs for their Net Gen and Millennial students.” This Educause Review article is written by John Moore, Senior Director for Strategy and Planning in Learning Technologies, along with co-authors Veronica Diaz, P. B. Garrett, Edward R. Kinley, Celeste M. Schwartz, and Pat Kohrman. Faculty development in this contemporary environment is compared across large, public schools (including Penn State, Indiana State, and Virginia Tech) to smaller, private schools like American University.

[www.educause.edu/er]
CNS online ICR system

CNS’ interdepartmental communications request (ICR) form has been redesigned and made available online. Access for registered ICR users is available through COLA and provides web-based entry of telecommunications service requests, as well as departmental computer network portals, telephone class of service, and wireless network service/portal associations. Registration for the system or assistance is available by e-mail cnsoper@vt.edu or calling 1-6460. Also see www.vtnews.vt.edu/campus_notices/campusnotice.php?item=2426.

IT Security Lab

Colonel Tim Buennemeyer’s Ph.D. research was completed in December 2008, dealing with intrusion detection for handheld computers, PDAs, and Smart Phones. Tim currently commands the Army Command and Control Support Agency in the Pentagon, and is one of the Army officers who have completed graduate degrees working in the IT Security Lab.

His reflections mark the strong relationships among military students, the College of Engineering, and the IT Security Lab. He writes, “Military graduate students range from Colonels to Captains and are extremely goal-oriented individuals with fixed academic completion timelines. They come to Virginia Tech because they are seeking a world-class education and a supportive research environment. Moreover, military graduate students are interested in applying their research to the defense of our nation. With an ever increasing cyber threat, Army officers seek security knowledge that can be employed now to protect critical military information systems. The Virginia Tech IT Security Office & Lab facilities, sponsored by Wayne Donald and Randy Marchany, provide just such a complementary setting for developing security research concepts. This educational endeavor is a reflection of their vision to provide an appropriate security research venue and a nurturing environment that blends interdisciplinary security knowledge across faculty, staff and students to synergistically achieve high research standards and collaborative successes. These goals are born out by the fact that the security lab team has played a large part in successfully supporting four recently graduated Ph.D. students (three Army Officers and one National Security Agency civil servant) in the past four years.”

SCOM 2007

The Microsoft Implementation Group is sponsoring a fully subscribed, Microsoft-taught training course, System Center Operations Manager 2007, June 23-25 for university personnel using or planning on deploying SCOM 2007.

The System Center Operations Manager 2007 workshop is designed to prepare a customer to design, deploy and operate Operations Manager 2007 efficiently within their environment. This workshop incorporates best practices learned from numerous System Center Operations Manager 2007 implementations and imparts knowledge about lessons learned from those engagements.