Organizational changes

Erv Blythe announced several staffing and organizational changes that support on-going work after recent retirements, and that support emerging objectives.

Converged Technologies for Security, Safety, and Resilience. Brenda van Gelder is the Executive Director for this new area, which consists of eCorridors and BEV (IT outreach efforts), coordination of continuity of operations plans, VTGIS (geographic information systems research and administrative functions), and Identity Management Services. This area is responsible for coordinating, integrating, and monitoring progress on strategic initiatives that involve technologies for converged security (the intersection of information technology security and physical security activities), campus safety, and community/regional resilience. It serves as an advocate and liaison for the information technology interests of campus police and emergency management organizations.

Network Infrastructure and Services. William Dougherty will serve as the Executive Director for Network Infrastructure and Services, responsible for operations involving the network and computing infrastructure. Joe Hutson reports to William in his new role of Director for Voice and Mobile Technologies. He will be responsible for the planning, design and implementation of the university’s next generation unified communications solution. He has operational responsibility for the existing telephone, voice mail, and adjunct voice applications. Pat Rodgers will assume oversight responsibility for facilities, fiscal management and budgeting, personnel, and compliance with state and federal regulations. Pat Rodgers, Carl Harris, and Jeff Crowder assume new duties reporting directly to the vice president (see below), while continuing support to NI&S through the coming year.

Vice President’s management team. Changes to the management team in the office of the vice president include new duties for Jeb Stewart as Deputy Chief Information Officer, with continued responsibilities as IT Chief of Staff. In addition to her responsibilities in NI&S, Pat Rodgers will have responsibilities relative to current and potential revenue-based activities. Carl Harris is appointed the Chief Technology Architect for Information Technology, reporting directly to the vice president. He will be responsible for articulating the vision for IT applications and the supporting computing and communications infrastructure. Jeff Crowder will serve as the Executive Director of Strategic Initiatives.

Buying Fujitsu computers

Fujitsu is now a HokieMart Punchout contract supplier. The Punchout site lists all contract mobile computers and offers many configuration choices.

For enterprise computers and larger volume orders, obtain a quote from the Fujitsu representative listed on the Punchout and the Computer Purchasing website, enter in HokieMart as a non-catalog order, and include the quote as an external attachment.
Technology in the arts

Learning Technologies has announced the appointment of Bill Sanders as the director for technology in the arts. The work centers on collaboration with the Center for the Arts and the Center for Creative Technologies in the Arts. Read more at www.vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2010/07/073010-arts-sandersdirectorappt.html.

What is Blitz Week?

Blitz Week is a set of offerings by the Faculty Development Institute. At the beginning of each semester, sessions are specifically designed to provide teaching faculty and GTAs with the information to prepare their course’s online presence for the new semester. Fall semester Blitz Week is August 16 to 26, and focuses intensively on Scholar, including migration from Blackboard, which is not available for fall classes. For more information, see www.fdi.vt.edu/public/?term_pk1=11562.

VT-Carilion

On January 3, 2007, the presidents of Virginia Tech and of the Carilion Clinic announced the creation of a new medical school—the Virginia Tech-Carilion School of Medicine, and a new university research institute.

The public-private partnership is designed to leverage the strengths of both institutes: Virginia Tech’s strength in basic sciences, bioinformatics, and engineering; Carilion Clinic’s experienced medical staff and rich history in medical education.

The partnership provides for close collaboration, with the university providing management of the Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute. Employees of the institute are employees of Virginia Tech. Carilion Clinic provides management for the Virginia Tech-Carilion School of Medicine, again, with close collaboration with the university. The program begins its first class early August. Students will also take some of their curriculum at Virginia Tech, and faculty will be closely linked with the university.

Have you changed your password lately? High quality passwords are essential, but even they age and have unknown exposures. The IT Security website provides tips on selecting strong password or passphrases. See http://www.security.vt.edu/cyber_security/passphrases.html for more tips.

• Don’t use passwords that are based on personal information that can be easily accessed or guessed.
• Use a combination of upper- and lower-case letters, numbers, and special characters.
• Use passphrases when you can.
• Use different passwords on different systems.