Message boards

CNS has installed electronic message boards in 165 classrooms. The boards were recommended by the review committees after April 16, 2007. With the message boards, emergency notices can be viewed, whether or not the students and instructors have cell phones turned on and subscribed to the VT Alerts automated notification system. When no emergency situation is present, the boards display the date and time.

University Relations and the Virginia Tech Police control the display on the boards. The boards themselves were supplied by Charlottesville-based Inova Solutions.

Distressed student reporting system

The Office of the Dean of Students continues to take reports of students who may be in distress with great care and concern. The reporting system currently in place allows faculty members to submit information about a student who may be experiencing issues. Critical staff members who have been identified by individual deans, department heads, and directors now also have access. The AIS Student Team has written the functionality as a part of the Hokie Spa suite of applications. The reporting is available within the Faculty Access/Hokie SPA menu. For more information, see www.vtnews.vt.edu/campus_notices/campusnotice.php?item=1949.

Matters needing immediate attention should be directed to the Virginia Tech Police—540/231-6411.

Dedication ceremony, October 6

A dedication ceremony will be held on Monday, October 6, 2008, from 6:00-6:30 pm on the west lawn of Research Building 14, facing 460. This is a ceremony to dedicate a bench, plaque, and tree in memory of Judy Albert and to dedicate a plaque in memory of other Information Technology colleagues. This date is the one-year anniversary of the accident. Judy's family will be attending the event.

For more information, contact Randy Marchany (marchany@vt.edu).
VA SCAN 2008

October 6 and 7 mark the dates for the 5th annual VA SCAN conference. The conference is being held at the Inn at Virginia Tech. The conference website is www.cpe.vt.edu/vascan2008/index.html.

This annual event for current information technology security issues is an event of the Virginia Alliance for Secure Computing and Networking.

Educause 2008

Virginia Tech’s Information Technology presenters at the October Educause conference (http://net.educause.edu/e08) include:

- Brenda van Gelder, Preconference seminar on “the Leadership Role of IT: Supporting Security, Preparedness, and Continuity,” with William Badertscher, Georgetown University.
- Erv Blythe, “National LambdaRail”
- Hud Croasdale, “The Quilt”
- Tom Head, “Deploying an open source, online evaluation system: multiple experiences,” with Ellen Yu Borkowski, University of Maryland, and Lisa Emery, University of Michigan

InnovationSpace

Virginia Tech’s InnovationSpace is the new identity of the New Media Center. Located in 1140 Torgersen Hall, InnovationSpace is a technology-enriched lab offering free access to software, hardware, demonstrations and training for students, employees, and the public.

The center opened in 1994 to provide access to high-end multimedia hardware, software and technical assistance. With the name change comes a new focus on many of the new Web 2.0 tools, and on collaborative partnerships across the university and beyond. See www.is.vt.edu.

ResNet upgrade

CNS upgraded network equipment in university residence halls over the summer. Previously, users had access to 10Base-T connections, and now have a 10-fold increase in end-user connectivity speed with 100Base-T connections. CNS also upgraded the building distribution network feeds from 100Mb links to dual 1000Mb links, providing not only a 10-fold increase for the building connectivity but also offering redundancy to ensure less down time for end users. The new equipment allows better monitoring and management of the residential hall networks, and greater flexibility for configuration, maintenance, and documentation of these networks.

Hold the date—DCSS will be held October 21 in Owens Banquet facility.
Send suggestions for topics to Susan Brooker-Gross.