Discovery Commons and Kenyan Law Gazette

An international partnership between a Kenyan open government group and Discovery Commons (TLOS) created a searchable digital archive of the Kenya Law Gazette. The work, sponsored by Professor Brett Shadle (History), offers a digital archive of the official record of laws, ordinances, and appointments made by the colonial and independent government of Kenya. The database initially covers 1977-1989, and will eventually reach back to the 1890s. Topics covered include the abolishment of slavery, the alienation of African lands for white settlers, and the prohibition of the anti-colonial Mau Mau movement.

Leading Change through Innovation and Collaboration

Jeff Crowder, Seth Peery, and Brenda van Gelder were invited to present posters at the University of Virginia on December 3. Jeff was the representative for a poster about the Mid-Atlantic Research Infrastructure Alliance (MARIA), and Seth and Brenda represented one on the topic of technology-enhanced situational awareness Game Day application. More than 200 representatives from Virginia higher education focused on collaboration and innovation to improve effectiveness and efficiencies.

InclusiveVT: A New Approach to Inclusion and Diversity

The president’s Inclusion and Diversity Executive Council supports the university’s framework for inclusion and diversity and will oversee accountability for achieving the strategic goals. At the center of this approach is the expectation that deans, vice presidents, and other senior leaders at the university will each identify three initiatives and report on the status of their implementation at the end of the spring semester. www.vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2014/12/121614-president-inclusivevtinitiatives.html
New CMS announced

University Relations announced it is adopting Adobe Experience Manager as its content management system. Digital Wave, a web consulting firm, has been retained to assist with the implementation. The first goal is to migrate existing CMS sites by the end of May 2015. Updates on progress will be distributed via the Web-L and Ensemble listservs and posted to the Ensemble CMS site.

The proposal evaluation team included Kevin Rooney and Jitendra Shrestha from Information Technology, along with Robert Sebek (Libraries) and Mark Owczarski and John Jackson (University Relations).

Follow the implementation on ensemble.cms.vt.edu.

Winter closing

Most Information Technology online services will be available during the winter closing period. For complete information, check out “winter closing” on www.computing.vt.edu.

Employees must use a valid leave type for the non-holiday days of closing (see www.hr.vt.edu).

Universities and Colleges Caucus Emergency Managers Practitioners

At the Industry Association of Emergency Managers Conference in San Antonio this month, Brenda van Gelder spoke on “Leveraging IT Infrastructure for Enhanced Campus Safety”. Her remarks included several technologies and collaborations of her unit and the university’s Office of Emergency Management. While at the conference, she also shared copies of a whitepaper which she co-authored with others in a SURA IT-EMS Best Practices working group (see https://guidebook.com/).

Title IX training

All Virginia Tech employees are required to take a mandatory Title IX and Retaliation workshop. Per federal government guidelines, all faculty, staff, wage, student wage, and graduate assistants must complete the workshop by January 30, 2015. See www.vtnews.vt.edu/ notices/121114-hr-titleixandretaliations.html.

Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any educational program or activity that receives federal financial assistance. 20 U.S.C. § 1681(a). The sexual harassment of students, including sexual violence is a form of sex discrimination prohibited under Title IX. This includes, rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, and sexual coercion. University Policy 1025 prohibition against discrimination on the basis of gender includes sex discrimination and harassment and is consistent with the requirements of Title IX.