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## VT STARS

This past summer, thirty-three new students participated in VT STARS—“Virginia Tech Summer Training Academy for Rising Students.” Its goal is to strengthen the academic performance of rising high school students from low-income, culturally disadvantaged, or impoverished families. Twenty-three students returned for a second summer residency of seven days.

The graduate student e-mentoring component was once again deployed, with six doctoral students directly involved in the summer’s instructional activities. New this year was a mandatory evening study

hall that involved nine undergraduate students mentors as well as the graduate students.

The instructional activities for summer 2007 revolved around the theme of *Energy Resources, Scarcity, and Our Changing World*. Topics were integrated with hands-on activities. Instructional activities for math were embedded in seminars on sustainability and systems engineering.

A major assessment of the past three summers is underway that is being reported to funding sources and to VT STARS stakeholders.

## Changes in Enterprise Systems

Debbie Fulton has announced Enterprise Systems’ (ES) restructuring that will support existing functions to make information technology work for Virginia Tech as well as new initiatives, including enhanced support for research administration, imaging and document management, digital repository structures, and web content management application support.

The new organizational structure consists of these units:

**Application Information Systems (AIS)**, focusing on application development, process analysis, and project coordination and management, led by Mike Naff.

**Information Warehousing and Knowledge Management (IWKM)**, focusing on analytics and reporting, the design and support of data marts, and the Knowledge Base, led by Betsy Blythe.

**Database and Application Administration (DAA)** for Oracle and other databases, as well as web server administration, led by Bill Dooley.

**Integration and Portal Services (IPS)**, led by Ken McCrery, incorporates the former Collaborative Technologies Unit and the Banner General Team.

**Document Management Systems (DMS)**, led by Mark Hoppe, will focus on content management system, digital repositories, and imaging. The group incorporates the staff and functions of the former Enterprise Support team.

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## MABUG

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The program for the Mid-Atlantic Banner User's Group (MABUG) 2007 conference hosted by Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia on October 8th and 9<sup>th</sup> is posted at [www.mabug.richmond.edu](http://www.mabug.richmond.edu).

Sessions led by Virginia Tech personnel include:

“Denormalized Views of the Fund/Orgn/Acct Hierarchies in PL/SQL packages,” Judy Wills and Jay Smith

“Performing Equipment Inventories with Banner Fixed Assets,” Becky Saylor

“Hot Topics in Research Administration Roundtable,” Linda Bucy

“Introduction to Nonresident Alien Payments,” Leisa Shelor and Janet Kunz

“Payroll Deductions,” Jane Stringer, Dan Boden, and Eddie Shumate

“Making BANNER the comprehensive source for Athletic Eligibility Certification,” Jennifer Mengel and Clyde Cridlin

“Introduction to XML on Oracle 10g,” Jay Smith

“DRWeb: ad hoc reporting on the web,” Michael Ringenbach, Stephen Carpenter, and Kim Smith

MABUG Steering Committee, Troy Boroughs (University of Richmond) and Lee Anne Hoppe

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## AT Lab tour

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As part of Disability Employment Awareness Month, the Assistive Technologies Lab is offering a tour, October 23, from 11 a.m. through 1 p.m. No registration is required. The lab, located in 1180 Torgersen Hall, will have demonstrations of various available options, including turning documents and graphics into Braille or raised line drawings, enlarging text on computer screens, and talking to computers rather than typing. The AT Lab is led by Bill Holbach.

Hold the date...

DCSS is scheduled for **October 30**, Owens Banquet Hall, from 8 am through noon.

Volunteer to present or suggest a topic!

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*See the article, “Active Learning and Technology: Designing Change for Faculty, Students, and Institutions,” by Anne Moore, Shelli Fowler, and Eddie Watson in the September/October [Educause Review](http://www.educause.edu/apps/er/erm07/erm0752.asp). <http://www.educause.edu/apps/er/erm07/erm0752.asp>*

*The article is part of a special issue focus on faculty development.*