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Holiday Giving

Several annual traditions continue to provide opportunities for Information Technology staff to contribute to meeting community needs during the holidays.

Information Technology staff contributed 1893 items, up from last year's total 1542, to the Hokies for the Hungry Food Drive. The Virginia Tech Marching Virginians organize the food drive campus-wide, and Becky Brim is the leading force within Information Technology. Donations are contributed to the Montgomery County Christmas Store. The Hokie Bird and mem-

bers of the Marching Virginians came to receive the contributions, with a serenade of thanks—the Hokie Pokie, of course.

On December 7, the Lunch and Silent Auction raised money for the Combined Virginia Campaign.

Lunch, a bake sale, a raffle, and a silent auction of donated items raised \$1,522.00 for the CVC, with nearly 100 participants. The selected charities were the American Red Cross & The Women's Resource Center.

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Assistance to students

4help and the Customer Service Center assisted students whose computers were damaged in the fire of Zeta Psi fraternity house. Kevin Davis was able to recover data from all five damaged computers—three laptops and two desktops. Two were burned badly enough to require removal of the hard drives and re-installation in another computer, in order to read the drives. Three would boot up and data was transferred to an external hard drive. Anne Sheppard loaned laptops to several of the students until they could work with their insurance and purchase a new computer. Once the students' new computers arrived, the staff helped them transfer data back to the new machines.

IT staff in university governance

IT staff members are active in university governance.

- Staff Senate:
 - Vice President, Judy Alford, Learning Technologies
 - Members: Widget Shannon, Administrative Information Systems (retiring December 31, 2005); Ken Wieringo, Planning & Administration
- Commission on Professional and Administrative Faculty Affairs
 - Bill Sanders, BEV, representing “General Administration”

PKI project

Public Key Infrastructure projects have taken a large step forward with the current project to establish user digital signatures. The project is constructed of several subprojects to permit different kinds of work to proceed in parallel.

Some of the project milestones achieved to-date are:

June 30, 2005: Project approval and funding obtained from the office of the Executive Vice President

August 9, 2005: Project leaders assigned

In January 2006, a status report will be made to the Executive Vice President. Further work will include testing and beta implementation during Spring 2006 semester. The beta implementation is to be leave reports for Information Technology personnel. By Summer 2006, implementation of personal digital certificates into other applications will occur.

Device Selection—contact, Phil Benchoff

Policies—contact, Karen Herrington

User Certificate Authority—contact, Bahaa Alamood

Token Administration System—contact, Bahaa Alamood

Integration—contacts, Ismael Alaoui and Lee Anne Hoppe

Documentation & Communication—contacts, Mary Dunker and Greg Kroll

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Ann E. Stunden, CIO at the University of Wisconsin-Madison spoke at the December 12th Information Technology Forum preceding the holiday party. She spoke to the theme of “Then, now, tomorrow: A view from a slightly removed and skewed perch.”

Stunden is the 2005 recipient of the Educause Award for Leadership in the Profession. The award cites her strong and ground-breaking leadership in the information technology business. More on the Educause award is available at www.educause.edu.