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Graduates

Recent graduates in Information Technology include these individuals. The list includes names, (university other than Virginia Tech) major, and place of employment.

Doctoral degrees awarded

Tim Buennemeyer, Computer Engineering; Information Technology Security Lab

Master's degrees awarded

Theresa Nelson, Computer Engineering, Information Technology Security Lab

Miranda Puckett, English, Content and Knowledge Management

Mike Stchur, Accounting and Information Systems, Information Technology Security Lab

Shelly Teotia, Accounting and Information Systems, Math Emporium

Undergraduate degrees awarded

Jessica Brunson, Public and Urban Affairs, Math Emporium

Andrew Cole, (New River Community College) Networking Specialization Information Technology, Call Center

Jennifer Crook, Political Science and History, Math Emporium

Brent Elliott, Psychology, Math Emporium

Mike Gora, Computer Engineering, Information Technology Security Lab

Meryl Greenblatt, Biological Systems Engineering, Math Emporium

Jason Hubbard, (Radford University) Media Studies, University Computing Support

Michael Hughes, Civil Engineering, Math Emporium

Brian E. Jones, (Old Dominion) Engineering Technology, Network Engineering Management

James Kenney, Psychology, 4Help

Doug Kurucz, Computer Science, 4Help

Kate Lehmkuhler, Communication, New Media Center

Kent Lenceski, Computer Science, 4Help

Zheng Lin, Accounting and Information Systems

Sandra Martin, Accounting and Information Systems, Math Emporium

Andrew Metcalf, Business Information Technology, Math Emporium

Whitney Mullins, Music, New Media Center

Josh Salinger, Psychology and Political Science, Math Emporium

David Schuh, (Radford University) General Studies, Video Network Operations Center

Anne Sheppard, (New River Community College) Information Technology, University Computing Support

Rick Tanner, Management, 4Help

Jennifer Uchida, Visual Communications Design/Art History, New Media Center

Sarah Worley, Psychology, Torgersen Bridge

Presenters at the Common Solutions Group included panelists Anne Moore (Policy and EDUCAUSE discussion), and Erv Blythe (Agile Product/Service Delivery Strategies). Common Solutions Group is composed of university information technology organizations. See www.stonesoup.org.

Emergency notification presentation

Mike Dame (University Relations), William Dougherty, Richard Hach and Pat Rodgers presented the audio seminar: "Emergency Notification at Virginia Tech" on May 13, 2008, for the Association for Communications Technology Professionals in Higher Education. It was joined by 310 people at 79 locations including Canada and New Zealand. The purpose of the seminar was to review technology issues and implications around the shootings at Virginia Tech and to discuss aspects of non-technology issues that impact emergency communications. The importance of advance planning, training and preparation regarding people, processes and policy to address and resolve campus emergencies was discussed.

Security Professionals Conference

The EDUCAUSE Security Professionals Conference held in Arlington, Virginia, on May 4-6, included presentations by Virginia Tech Information Technology staffers.

Mary Dunker: "Who Are You? Leveraging PKI for Digital Signatures at Virginia Tech"

Abstract: Digital signatures facilitate moving processes online while preserving the integrity of the signature. This presentation will show how Virginia Tech has leveraged its public key infrastructure to securely incorporate digital signatures into online processes

William Dougherty: "Collecting and Preserving Data in the Wake of a Tragedy"

Abstract: After the tragic events of April 16, 2007, at Virginia Tech, IT professionals and university legal counsel had to quickly address the need to collect and preserve data in the event of future litigation. Performing tasks while dealing with grief and protecting academic freedom and privacy issues has required a delicate approach.

Human Resource changes

Three resolutions are working their way through university governance involving changes made possible by higher education restructuring in the personnel arena. The resolutions have been approved by University Council and go next to the board of visitors. One resolution deals with performance reviews and would change the rating scale to a 4-point evaluation rating rather than the current 3-point scale. It would also simplify and automate portions of the performance management process, and provide more feedback opportunities regarding performance. A second resolution addresses compensation practices. University staff (those hired on or after July 1, 2006) would come under a merit pay system rather than the current 'across-the-board' increases. The third resolution provides for conversion of some staff positions to faculty positions. University staff in certain positions (and vacancies in those positions) in pay bands 5-7 will be converted to administrative/professional faculty, and classified staff in similar positions will be invited to convert. Decisions about which positions qualify for the change will be made by Human Resources in collaboration with Information Technology leadership.

Human Resources is conducting information sessions to explain the changes more fully. To enroll for sessions specifically for IT personnel, contact Jamie Snider at jaboggs@vt.edu. Also see <http://www.restructuring.hr.vt.edu/>.

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Taking effect in July is a new law pertaining to identity theft and notification of data breaches. See <http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?081+ful+CHAP0801>. The law, "Breach of personal information notification," provides for notification of individuals if certain personal information is lost, stolen, or subject to unauthorized access.