

UNC Links
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Campus IT News

Highlights of IT activities on the 16 campuses

UNCC and Georgia Institute of Technology Chosen for DHS National Visualization Team

A university team with members from UNC Charlotte and Georgia Tech, was selected by the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), to become a Regional Visualization and Analytics Center. The PNNL is working for the Department of Homeland Security to fully utilize academic expertise to uncover information that may lead to a terrorist attack. The North Carolina and Georgia team will focus on developing the tools and techniques for intelligence analysis and decision making, especially in effectively analyzing multimedia databases.

<http://www.publicrelations.uncc.edu>

UNC-CH Receives Grant for Digital Library Curriculum

The National Science Foundation awarded UNC-Chapel Hill and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University a three-year grant of over half million dollars to develop a digital library curriculum that, ultimately, may benefit institutions across the country. The research will focus on creating individual lessons or modules that programs in computer science and library science can use to supplement existing courses.

<http://www.unc.edu/news/archives/jan06/>

NCCU Receives Grant from Golden Leaf Foundation for Biotech Institute

The Golden Leaf Foundation awarded \$1.5 million to the North Carolina Central University's project for the Biomanufacturing Research Institute and Technology Enterprise (BRITE). The funds will be used to purchase equipment for the biotechnology teaching laboratories. BRITE is part of a statewide effort to increase the number of skilled workers in the biotechnology industry. NCCU plans to create academic degree programs at the baccalaureate, master's, and doctorate level through the biomanufacturing institute and offer students the opportunity to participate in biotech modules and laboratory work, as well.

<http://www.nccu.edu/publicrelations/news/>

NCSU Rated Among Top 25 'most connected' Universities

The Princeton Review ranked NC State University one of the most connected campuses in the nation. To identify the top schools, the Princeton Review requested data from 361 top colleges around the country and ranked the colleges on criteria such as whether the campus provides: a wireless network, online courses and registration, and support for

handheld computing. For more information on the criteria and the list of 25 schools:
<http://forbes.com/connected>

NCA&T State Vice Chancellor Harrigan Makes Technology VIP List

Rodney E. Harrigan, vice chancellor for information technology and communications at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University has been named one of the 100 Most Important Blacks in Technology for 2006 by US Black Engineer & Information Technology Magazine. He has over 30 years experience in technology and telecommunications with several senior level positions at IBM and NC A&T State. For more information: http://www.ncat.edu/press_releases

UNC-CH's ITS Franklin Building Reopens

Approximately 170 ITS staff, customers and friends celebrated the opening of ITS Franklin on Friday, November 4, 2006. Before ceremonially cutting the ribbon and welcoming everyone into the new building, UNC-Chapel Hill Chancellor James Moeser and Dan Reed spoke about the history of the site, the working conditions ITS staff have tolerated, and the bright future marked by the renovation of ITS Franklin and the construction of ITS Manning. More information about the building is available at <http://its.unc.edu/buildings/>

UNCG Selects Student Laptop Vendor

Recently, UNC Greensboro announced its selection of IBM/Lenovo for the Selected Windows Laptop Vendor. In the next several weeks, students will be able to purchase laptops online from the company. Also, the laptop program will include Apple for the Macintosh platform (and the details are currently being finalized). Beginning fall 2006, the university will recommend that freshman purchase a wireless laptop computer. In 2007, freshman will be required to buy a laptop. Also by fall 2006, the university expects to expand wireless access to all major academic buildings on campus and many common areas as well. For more information about the wireless or laptop initiatives: <http://its.uncg.edu/laptop>. Also, see UNC Links, Volume 6, no. 2, October 2005.

Google Search Appliance Implemented on UNC-CH Web Site

Searches on the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Web site are now performed using Google, considered by many to be the industry standard for searching Web content. The Google Search Appliance (GSA) was added to the university's site on January 30th by Information Technology Services. The GSA offers several enhancements, including better search results based on relevancy and priority as well as a new interface. While www.google.com already indexes most of UNC-Chapel Hill's Web pages, the GSA resides on the university's network and can be customized to find documents that would not be found by the regular version of Google. Google search is now available by clicking the search link found on the UNC-Chapel Hill home page, <http://www.unc.edu>, or by going directly to the search page at <http://search.unc.edu>.

IT Strategy in Action

An inside look at implementing UNC's IT Strategy

Annual TLT Conference Convenes this Week

The seventh annual UNC Teaching and Learning with Technology Conference will convene March 15-17, 2006 at the Hilton North Raleigh hotel. Vision, Leadership, and Collaboration is the 2006 conference theme and the plenary speakers will include: Dr. Cyprien Lomas, an EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative Scholar in Residence, and Dr. Ron Bleed, the 2005 EDUCAUSE Excellence in Leadership Award winner. This conference provides professional development opportunities for UNC faculty and staff interested in the effective use of technology for teaching and learning. Last year's conference attracted over 400 participants (a 20 percent increase over 2004). Conference attendees came from all 16 UNC campuses and included information technology staff and faculty from a wide range of disciplines. The event is cosponsored by the UNC TLT Collaborative and the UNC Faculty Assembly. For more information: contact Frank Prochaska, executive director of the UNC TLT Collaborative, prochask@northcarolina.edu.

UNC-GA Debuts Enrollment Management Pilot with SAS

At an organizational meeting on February 2, 2006, UNC staff met with SAS staff to begin a pilot project to utilize SAS business and financial software in improving UNC's enrollment planning efforts. Meeting participants included representatives from NC State, UNC-Chapel Hill, and the divisions of information resources, student affairs, academic affairs, finance, faculty affairs, and strategy development and analysis in UNC-GA. The aim of the pilot is to improve the effectiveness of enrollment planning and monitoring, and generate the UNC's state budget request for enrollment management. The pilot is due to be completed by mid-June and will involve enrollment projections from all 16 UNC institutions. For more information, contact Laura Young, associate vice president for information resources: lyoung@northcarolina.edu.

SAS Day "Symposium" for UNC

As a part of the UNC-SAS Partnership, SAS is sponsoring a day long symposium on April 13, 2006, for UNC's constituent institutions on the SAS Headquarter campus in Cary, NC. The day will be dedicated to information sharing on such topics as analytics, UNC strategic partnership initiatives, and presentations on select SAS technologies to include SAS Bridge for ESRI and SAS Grid Manager for Computing. [Registration is free and may be completed online](#). For more information, contact Alfred Mays, director of IR Affairs, amays@northcarolina.edu or Liz Riley-Young, at liz.riley-young@sas.com.

Banner Reaches Milestone

In March 2006, the 14 participating UNC institutions will hit the halfway mark with 50% of the go live dates achieved for the implementation of Sungard SCT Banner systems.

(Six systems went into production in February 2006.) It is anticipated that by July 2006, 75% of the targeted administrative systems will be in production. To view the go live dates for all the UNC campuses implementing Banner, visit: <http://www.northcarolina.edu/content.php/ir/alliance/alliance.htm> and browse through the calendar.

Karin Steinbrenner, chief information officer, UNC Charlotte, recently gave the following example of immediate cost savings achieved with Banner: “With the implementation of Banner, UNC Charlotte Financial Services promoted the use of direct deposit for payroll and travel reimbursements. In the past, even when a person had signed up for direct deposit, they would still receive a voided check which served as the notification that the money had been deposited in their account. With Banner, all travel reimbursement notices are done automatically via email and employees do receive an electronic payroll notification which instructs them to review their payroll stubs on the Web using Banner Self Services. This new process will eliminate printing and handling of about 50,000 notifications/checks per year. This number is likely to increase as more staff sign up for direct deposit. If one, conservatively, estimates the costs for processing a check at about \$2.00, immediate savings amount to \$100,000 per year.”

CTM Round Up

The UNC is currently renewing the following software license agreements:

- Red Hat
- Microsoft
- ESRI
- Wolfram Research for Mathematica Product
- Symantec Antivirus
- Novell ALA

Also, the UNC has completed Strategic Relationship Agreements (SRA) with Sun Microsystems and Cisco Systems, Inc. The UNC recently held a set of teleconferences with campus information technology and purchasing officers to discuss these agreements. More information will be available shortly via appropriate email distribution.

UNC-GA’s Warner Takes Position with CA

Tom Warner has accepted a position with CA, formerly Computer Associates, as Director, Global Education Vertical. In his new role, Tom will be responsible for building, implementing, and managing the global operations of the education vertical business unit for CA. Tom's last day with UNC GA will be March 23, 2006.

Tom Warner was hired in 2000 as the Director of Collaborative Procurement in the newly established Division of Information Resources. The area of Collaborative Procurement evolved into an area for which additional resource management resulted in increased leveraging of acquisitions and strategic relationships with vendors. Tom's efforts have been instrumental in the implementation of the UNC IT Strategy.

In the News

What's happening with partners across the state and nation

Friend to Lead NCVirtual

Bruce Friend, a former administrator for a virtual school in Florida, will become the first executive director of NC Virtual, North Carolina's on-line school. The vision and framework for the school is guided by the e-Learning Commission, a group comprised of representatives from industry, government, and education. UNC Vice Presidents Alan Mabe and Robyn Render serve on the commission. Jim Barber, Executive Director for LEARN NC, Tom Miller, Professor and Vice Provost, NC State University, and Elmer Poe, Associate Vice Chancellor, East Carolina University also serve on the commission. For more information:

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/sbehighlights/2005/08highlights.html>

and see *UNC Links*, October 2005.

Blackboard and WebCT Merger is Official

Blackboard and WebCT recently passed the final hurdle towards completing the official merger of the two technology companies. The U.S. Department of Justice closed its routine antitrust investigation of the merger and, effectively, gave the nod to the two companies' plans to join. In a letter to its customers officially announcing the merger, Blackboard noted that any points of contact (account management, client support etc.) will stay the same throughout the integration. Also, officials have indicated the company will continue to support WebCT software immediately after the merger. Subsequently, the combined company will explore new technology and new markets and eventually merge the two computer systems. For more information: <http://www.blackboard.com> and <http://chronicle.com>

Ruckus Partners with Internet2 for Creating and Delivering Content Distribution Technology

Recently, Internet2 announced that Ruckus has joined the consortium as a corporate partner. In addition, the company will collaborate with the membership to develop and test new technologies for delivering multimedia materials within and among campus communities. Many colleges and universities already have agreements with Ruckus to legally share multimedia music and entertainment content to students. This agreement with Internet2 allows universities to harness the power of the high-speed network to share classroom-related multimedia materials. For more information see:

<http://www.internet2.edu> or <http://www.ruckus.com>

Four-year, \$15 Million Project is Milestone in NCREN Support for Universities, State Government and Other Non-Profit Institutions

The North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) has recently completed *Project NCREN3*, a four-year, \$15 million project. This major enhancement will provide

faster and more reliable services to all 16 of the UNC institutions, Duke University, Wake Forest University, most of the other private universities, community colleges, the NC state government, public libraries, research institutions, and medical centers. It builds upon North Carolina's nationally renowned advanced network collaboration among universities, the UNC General Administration, the state of North Carolina, and MCNC. This state-of-the-art network is based upon a fully resilient and self-healing ring network architecture and serves as a model for other states. In addition, NCREN provides access to the world's leading research institutions through national research networks, including Internet2 and the National LambdaRail.

Q. How Much Faster is the Enhanced Network?

A. Since 1987, the amount of Internet-based information on the statewide network has increased 25,000 fold, serving millions of research, education, and government partners in North Carolina. The speed and capacity (bandwidth) of the network provide reliable service – today providing more than 5,000 times the speed of a cable modem and 90,000 times the speed of a typical dial-up Internet connection.

NCREN 3 enhancements provide a minimum network bandwidth of 1 billion bits per second (1 gigabit) at every North Carolina public university, with higher bandwidth up to 10 gigabits serving the state's largest research universities at UNC Chapel Hill, N.C. State University and Duke University.

Q. What Additional Education and Government Organizations Will Be Able to Access this Network?

A. A key enhancement through NCREN 3 is the establishment of Regional Points of Presence (rPoPs) beyond the core network serving the state's largest research universities in the Research Triangle region. These rPoPs are regional "on ramps" to the NCREN network, hosting network equipment to support the statewide NCREN backbone and enable the network to interconnect universities and other partners. The regional hubs enable communities to establish their own network services for colleges, K-12 schools, and local government organizations, becoming catalysts for regional economic development.

The most recent phase of Project NCREN3 included the creation of rPoPs in Asheville (resulting in enhanced services to UNC Asheville and Western Carolina University, who, in the past, have struggled with reliable connections) and in Hickory (resulting in a redundant and diverse path for UNC Charlotte).

In addition, NCREN 3 included a new research-only fiber network to support the Carolina MicroOptics Triangle, a regional optical research partnership among UNC Charlotte, Western Carolina University and Clemson University. The organization was formed to coordinate the technology platforms of the partner institutions for technology advancement, local education support, support to local companies, and to support economic development in the region. Over 150 jobs have been created, new degree programs have been established, and the region has established a reputation as one of the nation's leading optical centers.

Project NCREN3 is another fine example of how the universities collaborate to create new opportunities throughout the state while also identifying cost-saving opportunities. This successful model of collaboration can be expanded to include community colleges and school districts across the state.

MCNC Exec Killebrew Named StateNet Chair

John Killebrew, director of NCREN for MCNC, was recently nominated to be the chair of Educause's StateNet working group. This group is comprised of representatives from the public and non-profit organizations operating the statewide networks that serve the K-20, library, and governmental organizations. The StateNet working group provides a forum for identifying state and national policy issues and for discussing emerging technology issues unique to statewide networks.