CNS /Update Newsletter Feature

Director's Word: Spotlight on Change

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UF Information Technology

UFIT

2046 NE Waldo Rd, Suite 2100
Gainesville Florida 32609-8942
(352) 392.2061
<editor@cns.ufl.edu>
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Every so often in the data processing industry, there comes a period of great innovation and change. NERDC, along with the University of Florida, is experiencing one of those times from both a local and an industry-wide perspective. In the following paragraphs, and in the rest of this issue, we will share a glimpse of these exciting changes and our hopes for future developments.

During the past year, Dr. Charles Frazier was appointed Vice Provost for UF Information Technology. His appointment demonstrates the high level of support at UF for a strong focus on campus technologies. Dr. Frazier has implemented a new technology advisory structure headed by the Information Technology Advisory Council (ITAC), which is chaired by Dr. Frazier.

Members of this group will contribute to the development of a UF IT strategic plan. They will be assisted by additional committees including Academic Technology (ITAC-AT) chaired by Donna Johnson, Warrington College of Business Administration; Data Infrastructure and Administrative computing (ITAC-DI&ADM) chaired by Steve Pritz, Associate University Registrar; Network Infrastructure (ITAC-NI) chaired by Dave Pokorney, NERDC; and the Network Security Committee (NSC) chaired by Kathy Bergsma, NERDC. We at NERDC look forward to participating in this new structure to strengthen computing and related technologies at UF.

And, as the new organizational structure within the State of Florida and the new UF Board of Trustees takes effect, we will be exploring ways to facilitate goals relating to the Internet2 K20 Initiative for our state educational system.
Even with all of these changes, NERDC will maintain our usual Data Center/UF Department structure. We have a firm commitment from the UF Provost's Office for continuing to provide full cooperation, support and service to Florida Academic Counseling and Tracking for Students (FACTS), Florida Center for Library Automation (FCLA), and to the University of North Florida, as well as our service to the University of Florida.

We have worked on many projects during the past year. Some of them were designed to help us maintain our current level of service while accommodating an increasing demand. For example, we implemented a capacity upgrade to our OS/390 system this summer and were in good shape for the traditional period of heavy demand at the beginning of the Fall semester. We were also able to complete an upgrade to our NERSP computer system.

And, we are participating in the UF IT Training Committee (ITTC) chaired by Vicki Kitts-Turner, NERDC.

Other projects have involved explorations into new technologies. One example is the new wireless network implementation that has begun on the UF campus. Wireless networks allow users flexible and mobile access to network services. They do not have to stay in one location but can move anywhere within the active wireless network area. Another exciting project is the International Virtual-Data Grid Laboratory (iVDGL) that will allow researchers to share large amounts of data among computer systems in the United States, Asia, Europe, and Australia. Several groups within NERDC are working on implementing and using a WebSphere environment which combines the advantages of enterprise applications and open systems technologies. Please read about these, and many other, projects as you take a look at this year's Annual Review issue.

We are proud of our ability to maintain a high-level of ongoing services while keeping current with new technologies that will benefit users of our systems and services. We are also proud of the strong relationship that we have maintained with our academic community and invite you to let us know if you have special needs with which we can assist you.

Your Comments are Welcome

We welcome your comments and suggestions on this and all UFIT documentation. Please send your comments to:

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