CNS /Update Newsletter Feature

Ron Schoenau Steps Down as NERDC Director

UF Information Technology

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Ron Schoenau Steps Down as NERDC Director

On April 1, 2002, Ron Schoenau undertook a new role on the UF campus. As Director of UF IT Services, he will be working directly for Dr. Chuck Frazier, Vice Provost for Information Technology and for Dr. Win Phillips, Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School. We will miss his leadership and his presence at NERDC, but we are very happy that he has this new opportunity to serve the University of Florida.

During his 28 years as NERDC's director, Ron has led our computing community through rapid technological changes. When he became NERDC's second director in 1974, our computer (IBM 360/165) operated at a speed of 1.89 million instructions per second. People who dialed in to the NERDC computer used 1200 baud modems; the computer was large enough to take up a whole room; it was exciting when we added a 4th megabyte of memory to the 360/165 computer; researchers used punched cards to do computational research projects and store the resulting data; and we were proud that our networked services could reach users in Tallahassee, Jacksonville, and Orlando through 4800 bps HASP-to-HASP connections.

Today's NERDC computers routinely execute billions of instructions per second. Users dial in to NERDC using 56K modems; NERDC's large system computers take up the same space as large refrigerators and measure memory in gigabytes, not megabytes; researchers store programs and data on tapes, direct access storage devices (DASD), and writable CDs; and we participate in global networks and projects such as Internet2, data grids, the IPv6 testbed, and wireless computing.

Ron has fostered an enriched professional environment at NERDC that has resulted in a national reputation for NERDC in the areas of networking and large system service and...
performance. NERDC engineers and systems staff have served on numerous national (and sometimes international) computer industry boards and committees. His leadership style is very accessible; his door is open to all levels of NERDC staff; and there has been very little staff turnover at NERDC. Many staff members have worked with Ron during his entire 28 years as director. He has made it a very good place in which to work.

...and now.

Throughout his years at NERDC, Ron has built a legacy of service and progress. He has built a reputation for frequently lowering rates as well as for providing additional service for less cost. It has been his primary goal to provide reliable 24/7 services to our customers while testing and implementing new technologies. He has done this with humor and enthusiasm and has made it look easy. It is not. In this way, he has helped UF and other state universities in Florida be current and competitive with other academic institutions in the country.

It is our goal to pursue the same level of excellence engendered by Ron Schoenau to continue to support the computing needs of the University of Florida and our broader computing community. As always, we hope that you will let us know how 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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