EITS Status and Activity Report for September 2014

Prepared by Timothy M. Chester, Vice President for Information Technology (VPIT)

1. Announcements for Faculty and Staff Meetings

    - *UGA Mobile App Now Available for Android:* The official UGA mobile app for Android is now available in Google Play for installation on mobile devices. The existing iOS mobile app has also been updated in the App Store. The official UGA mobile app is the one-stop spot for UGA's most popular services, including daily dining commons menus, athletic scores, recreational sports schedules, parking services information and access to eLearning Commons (eLC). The bus tracker on the mobile apps now features a map to show Campus Transit buses traveling the campus in real time. In addition, the mobile apps also include an updated campus map with the ability to select points of interest, such as the print kiosks, computer labs, green spaces, bike repair stations, parking decks, and any building. EITS partnered with the Student Government Association (SGA) to design and develop the mobile apps. A number of other units, including Auxiliary Services and Campus Transit, have also worked closely with EITS to offer services on the mobile apps. For more information, please point a web browser to http://mobileapps.uga.edu.

    - *SecureUGA Awareness Training, Online Modules to Begin:* Starting in October, the University will launch SecureUGA, a security awareness and training module program. SecureUGA helps University employees understand, identify, and act appropriately to information security threats. All UGA faculty, staff, and students employed by the University are required to participate in the annual, self-paced, online awareness modules. SecureUGA was last offered University-wide for current employees in 2012. New employees have been completing the online modules as part of the onboarding process. Employees who have previously completed SecureUGA have the option to complete a brief refresher module, take the opt-out quiz, or complete the online modules to successfully demonstrate their knowledge of the materials. The modules include those about sensitive data, workplace security, password protection, and computer viruses. SecureUGA is being updated to feature a new design and modules. EITS will post a campus-wide announcement when SecureUGA is open. For more information, please contact Brian Rivers at brivers@uga.edu by email or point a web browser to http://secure.uga.edu.

2. Support for Student Technology Services

    - *New Email Communication Policy for Athena:* Implementation of the new Athena system, which replaces the University of Georgia's legacy student systems (admissions, registration, student records, curriculum, financial aid and student accounts), has presented a number of opportunities to improve business processes. To simplify processes that include e-mailing students, faculty, and staff, and to remove the effort needed to synchronize e-mail addresses between Athena and UGA's Identity Management System, a new Athena email policy was recently implemented. The new policy specifies that email communication from Athena will go only to official UGA email addresses (UGAMail). The preferred external email address for faculty and staff will not be used by Athena. University policy does permit UGAMail to be forwarded to another email address. The new Athena email communication policy is available at http://t.uga.edu/SS

- *Faculty Access to Athena:* Faculty and instructors may access Athena for class rolls, teaching schedules, and assignments for the fall 2014 semester. Login using a UGA MyID and password is required for access into Athena at http://athena.uga.edu. Once logged in, faculty and instructors should navigate to the Faculty Services tab to view class rolls, weekly and detailed teaching schedules, and active teaching assignments. Other features, including entering grades and tracking incomplete grades, will be available later this fall. Training guides for faculty, including a condensed At-a-Glance Guide for Faculty and instructions for printing class rolls, are available at http://connectuga.uga.edu/news/faculty-access-to-athena.

- *Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus Free for Students:* All UGA students may download and install Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus for free on up to five devices, including computers, tablets, and phones. Office 365 ProPlus includes Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and more. The program is available on devices using Windows, Android, and Mac operating systems, including iPad. Called the Student Advantage program, this offering is available through UGA's existing license with Microsoft for email and calendar services at no additional charge to the University. For more information about the Student Advantage program, please contact Shawn Ellis at Shawn.ellis@uga.edu by email, or point a web browser to http://office365.uga.edu.

3. Support for Academic and Administrative Computing

- *Financial, Human Resources Administrative Systems Project Moves to Next Phase:* Based on information provided in a report by Collegiate Project Services, the University will conduct a readiness assessment with a focus on Oracle PeopleSoft 9.2 as the preferred solution to replace UGA's legacy financial and human resources administrative systems. In recent months, the University has been engaged in in a process to collect and evaluate the expectations and high-level requirements of a future financial and HR administrative system. The goal is to offer a more state-of-the-art software package with web-enabled services that will help improve business processes. Along with the in-depth report provided by the consulting firm Collegiate Project Services and the widespread use of PeopleSoft by other institutions throughout the University System of Georgia, UGA will begin to evaluate PeopleSoft 9.2 as the preferred solution. During this next phase, Collegiate Project Services will conduct additional interviews, focus groups, and surveys to identify specific requirements for the next generation financial and HR administrative system. For more information about the finance and HR administrative systems evaluation project, please visit the project website at www.collegiateproject.com/uga or contact Chris Wilkins at chris.wilkins@uga.edu by email.

4. Support for Research

- *Campus-Wide License Coming for MATLAB:* MATLAB will be available on a campus-wide license later this fall. MATLAB is a high-level language for numerical computational, visualation and application development tool that provides an interactive environment for iterative exploration, design, and problem solving. Currently, there are about 175 individual licenses to MATLAB and its associated toolboxes among units across the University. The single campus license will give universal access to MATLAB and about 50 toolboxes for all UGA faculty and staff, as well as students in a lab environment. EITS is working with MathWorks, the provider of MATLAB, to transition

existing MATLAB licenses at UGA to the campus-wide license. Additional details will be provided to participating units when available. For more information about MATLAB, please contact Mike Lucas at mlucas@uga.edu by email.

- *Galaxy Workshop for Researchers Available:* The Georgia Advanced Computing Resource Center (GACRC) is co-sponsoring a workshop this fall about Galaxy, a web-based platform for data-intensive bioinformatics. The day-long workshop will introduce participants to Galaxy, including how to construct and share workflows, and how to use the Galaxy Tool Shed and local Galaxy instance. The workshop will be held on October 17, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Paul D. Coverdell Center, room S175. The class is free, but limited to the first 70 participants. For more information, or to register, please point a web browser to http://qbcg.uga.edu/galaxy-workshop. The workshop is also sponsored by the Institute of Bioinformatics and the Quantitative Biology Consulting Group.

5. Core Campus Infrastructure

- *Subsidy Available for Faculty, Staff Areas to Access Wireless Network:* In order to expand faculty and staff access to the PAWS-Secure wireless network, the Office of the Vice President for Information Technology is offering a 50% subsidy towards installation of new PAWS-Secure wireless access. The University offers PAWS-Secure throughout campus to areas primarily used by students through funds provided by the Student Technology Fee. For faculty and staff areas, wireless service is charged to departments. To qualify for a subsidy, PAWS-Secure must be in areas primarily used by faculty and staff offices, or in meeting and collaboration spaces. A total of $100,000 will be made available through the program in FY15 and will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Departments should request a quote for PAWS-Secure wireless service by using the form available at https://eits.uga.edu/support/request/cable. After a quote is received from EITS, it should be forwarded to the VPIT office with a memo seeking a 50% subsidy. For more information about this program, please contact Mike Lucas at mlucas@uga.edu by email.

- *Deadlines Approaching for BlueCat Transition:* EITS is working with units to transition the University's networks from a legacy IP address management system to a new system called BlueCat, which, when configured, allows users to self-register their computers and other devices to wired networks. EITS has been offering BlueCat training for IT professionals, while outlining plans to transition departments to the new system by an October 31 deadline. After that time, changes will not be allowed on the current IP address management system, which will be decommissioned in December. Departments making the transition to BlueCat are encouraged to make plans accordingly with EITS to ensure network services. For more information about BlueCat, please contact Brian Rivers at brivers@uga.edu by email.

- *SEC Network Available on University Cablevision*: Viewers of the UGA cable TV system can now watch the SEC Network throughout campus. In order to bring the new network to campus, including Sanford Stadium, EITS updated University Cablevision to all digital channels. EITS also assisted the Athletic Association to provide a fiber-based broadcast network at all athletic venues for the ability to create and broadcast content for the SEC Network. In addition, EITS verified fiber infrastructure for AT&T as part of the effort to bring the new network to campus. For more information, please contact Mike Lucas by email at mlucas@uga.edu.

6.   Did You Know?

- EITS has launched its HR Competency Project to identify how to develop high-performing IT employees at the University. The 18-month project involves engaging with all current EITS employees to identify the most important skill competencies for their job roles by participating in a survey and workshops. Based on that feedback, rubrics will be developed for each job role to outline measurable competencies that are exhibited by performers at various ranges. Employee performance reviews will include the competency standards. A committee of EITS employees and a representative from UGA HR is guiding the project. For more information about the HR Competency Project, please contact Wes Johnson at wesjo6@uga.edu by email.

- Dr. Timothy M. Chester, Vice President for Information Technology, has been selected to serve as chairman of the Hawkins Leadership Roundtable Council. The Hawkins Leadership Roundtable Council is a team of experienced CIOs across the country that guide a leadership program for new CIOs and individuals actively seeking a CIO role. The council is available through EDUCAUSE, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to advance higher education through information technology.

University of Georgia students, faculty, and staff, as well as interested others, may subscribe to this monthly report by sending an email to listserv@listserv.uga.edu with the phrase subscribe vpit-news as the body of the message.