Vice President for Information Technology
Status and Activity Report for August 2015

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

1. Announcements for Faculty and Staff Meetings

    • *Free Microsoft Office 2016 for Mac Available:* An upgraded version of Microsoft Office is now available for UGA students, faculty and staff to install for free on their personally-owned Mac computers. Office 2016 for Mac includes all of the programs in the Microsoft Office suite — such as Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and OneNote — but with improved functionality for formatting documents, spreadsheets and presentations. Mac users can update to Office 2016 by logging in their web-based UGAMail account (ugamail.uga.edu) to download and install the software. Office 2016 for Windows will be available later this year. The EITS website has more information about Office 2016 for Mac, including installation instructions, at http://t.uga.edu/1Ew.

    • *New Associate CIO for Data Reporting & Analytics Selected:* Sharon Logan has been named the Associate CIO for Data Reporting and Analytics, a new position that reports directly to the Vice President for Information Technology. Logan is currently Director of the Project Management Office at the University System of Georgia. She previously served as Director of Strategic Communications at the USG. As Associate CIO for Data Reporting and Analytics, Logan will focus on leading better data governance, architectures, policies, practices and procedures that properly support the full data lifecycle and analytics needs of the University. This is a senior-level position to meet the growing need for a strategic focus on data analytics across the University. Logan will begin her new position on August 17. For more information about the Associate CIO position, please contact Dr. Timothy M. Chester, Vice President for Information Technology, at tchester@uga.edu.

2. Support for Student Technology Services

    • *UGA Mobile App to Include Athens Transit Buses:* The University's official mobile app will include a new bus tracking feature with Athens Transit on August 7. The existing bus tracker with Campus Transit has been the most popular feature of the UGA Mobile App. With an updated app coming to the App Store and Google Play on August 7, UGA students, faculty, staff and visitors will be able to view buses for Campus Transit and Athens Transit within the UGA Mobile App. EITS has worked closely with Athens Transit and the Student Government Association to offer city buses on the UGA Mobile App, based on student feedback. For more information, please visit http://mobileapps.uga.edu or contact Lance Peiper at lpeiper@uga.edu.

    • *vLab Upgrades Offer Faster Performance, Video Streaming*: UGA's virtual computer lab, called vLab, has been upgraded to a new version with enhanced video capabilities and faster response times. The vLab allows students, faculty and staff to access lab software, just like in a physical computer lab, anytime on their own devices. The vLab includes Adobe Digital Editions, Microsoft Office, Blender, SPSS and Stata. To access the vLab, visit vlab.uga.edu. For more information about the UGA vLab, please visit http://eits.uga.edu/support/vlab/. For questions, please contact Keith Martin at keith.martin@uga.edu.

3. <u>Support for Academic and Administrative Computing</u>

- *New Report Request Process Available on ConnectUGA website:* A new, streamlined process to obtain reports for student information is now available on the ConnectUGA website. This "one-stop shop" process allows people to access reports developed out of the Banner Student Information System. Users can view a list of reports already available to the University community, request access to an existing report, request creation of a new report and view the status of report requests being developed as part of the ConnectUGA initiative and functional units, such as the Registrar's Office. For requests submitted through this new process, the appropriate office will contact requestors to facilitate the data access. The new report request process is available on the ConnectUGA website (http://connectuga.uga.edu) under the Reporting tab. For questions, please send an email to reports@uga.edu.

4. <u>Support for Research</u>

- *New Cluster Available to Researchers:* The Georgia Advanced Computing Resource Center's (GACRC) new cluster is available for researchers to meet their advanced computational needs. The new cluster, called Egret (also known as Sapelo), includes 7,200 compute cores, spanning general-purpose compute nodes (128 GB of RAM), high-memory nodes (512 GB and 1 TB of RAM), CPU/GPU hybrid nodes (nvidia K40 GPUs). Researchers may also take advantage of the GACRC buy-in program for their own compute nodes. For more information, please visit http://gacrc.uga.edu/systems, or contact Dr. Guy Cormier, Director of Research Computing, at gcormier@uga.edu by email.

- *Training Required for New GACRC Users:* The Georgia Advanced Computing Resource Center (GACRC) now requires researchers using the GACRC's resources for the first time to complete an introductory training session. The training sessions help researchers understand how to use the computational and storage resources available through the GACRC. Training is available for individual researchers and research groups on an ad hoc basis and through scheduled training sessions. Once new GACRC accounts are established, additional information about training opportunities is shared with researchers. Training opportunities are also posted on the GACRC's website at: http://gacrc.uga.edu/help/training. For more information, please contact Dr. Guy Cormier, Director of Research Computing, at gcormier@uga.edu by email.

- *Buy-In Program Extended for Researchers:* The Vice President for Information Technology is continuing a matching program to encourage faculty to use the new cluster for the Georgia Advanced Computing Resource Center (GACRC). This program was offered in FY15 and has been extended to FY16 with an additional $100,000 commitment from the Vice President for Information Technology. The program provides an additional computing node at no cost to researchers who purchase through the options available in the buy-in program. For more information, including details about the buy-in program, please contact Dr. Guy Cormier, Director of Research Computing, at gcormier@uga.edu by email.

5. <u>Data Reporting and Analytics</u>

- *New Function to Track College Completion Rates:* As part of an effort to assist colleges at the University with student success, the Office of Institutional Research has developed a new function that allows each college to track its cohort completion rates. This new function is available at OIR's FACTS website (http://facts.oir.uga.edu) under the Student

Success section. The completion rate is based on students graduating with a bachelor's degree or matriculating into a professional program at UGA. By selecting a school from the "School" pull-down menu, the user can get the completion rate for the college. By drilling to the cell detail, the user can get detailed summary of the students who started from one college, but graduated either within or outside the college. For example, if a student started at the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, but graduates with a bachelor's degree from the College of Engineering, the completion rate is given to Franklin College, but the user can see the total number of students who started from Franklin College, but graduated in the College of Engineering. For more information about this application, please contact Meihua Zhai at mzhai@uga.edu.

6. Core Campus Infrastructure

- *Identity Federation Available for Third-Party Websites, Applications:* EITS now offers Identity Federation, a single sign-on service that makes it easier for UGA students, faculty and staff to access online resources that require authentication with approved partners outside of the University. By using Identity Federation with approved partners, UGA students, faculty and staff can use their MyID and password to authenticate to non-UGA websites. A number of commercial websites use this type of method to authenticate users across partner organizations into their sites. Identity Federation is a new service provided by the Identity Management team within EITS. For more information, including submitting a request to register third-party websites and applications, please visit http://t.uga.edu/1Gm or contact Keith Martin at keith.martin@uga.edu by email.

- *New Version of UGAAlert Software Program Available to Install:* The UGAAlert emergency notification system has been transitioned to a new technical vendor. As part of the transition, the UGAAlert desktop software has been updated. In the event of an emergency, the desktop app scrolls a message by UGAAlert on a user's computer screen. The new version is available for Mac and PCs using Windows, and for the Athens or Gwinnett campuses. UGA students, faculty and staff are advised to update the UGAAlert desktop software on their computers. Departments that require an IT professional to install any software on University-owned computes should contact their IT professional for assistance. Students and employees are asked to review their contact information for phone and email alerts at www.ugaalert.uga.edu. For questions about UGAAlert, please contact the Office of Emergency Preparedness at ugaalert@uga.edu. For more information about the UGAAlert desktop program, please visit http://eits.uga.edu/hardware_and_software/software and click on the section for UGAAlert Desktop.

7. Did You Know?

- More people are turning to the UGA Mobile App to connect to campus resources, including new students attending classes for the first time this fall. More than 3,200 iOS users and 1,000 Android users have downloaded the app since UGA orientation sessions for incoming first-year students and transfer students began in June. In the summer, the average number of UGA mobile app downloads from the Apple Store is 25 to 30 per day; the average number of downloads from the Android store is 10 to 15 per day. On orientation days, those numbers climb to about 150 and 40, respectively. The app has several features that make it attractive to new students, including a campus map with a building locator that allows users to search by building name or number and a bus tracker that shows the routes for Campus Transit buses in real time. About 12,000 iOS users and 5,700 Android users have downloaded the app since September 2014. For more

information about the UGA Mobile App, visit the EITS website at http://t.uga.edu/1Gh or contact Lance Peiper, IT manager for the mobile app, at lpeiper@uga.edu.

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.