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

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

1. <u>Announcements for Faculty and Staff Meetings</u>

    -   *Podcasting Service to End on June 30:* The University System of Georgia (USG) will end its podcasting service on June 30, 2015. UGA uses the older podcasting service (http://podcasting.uga.edu) for its instructors and units. Those who want to keep their audio and video podcasts are asked to download their content by June 15 before the USG podcasting service is decommissioned. After June 30, podcasts will not be available for viewing or accessing. Instructions on how to download podcasts are available at http://ctl.uga.edu/podcast-archive. Faculty and units who need assistance with their podcasts are asked to contact EITS prior to June 15. Faculty and units interested in a replacement for the podcasting service and video hosting service may soon use Kaltura, a campus solution for media storage and streaming that will be integrated with eLearning Commons (eLC). Kaltura will soon be available for all colleges and units, thanks to a shared agreement with the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL), Office of Online Learning, EITS, the Terry College of Business, the College of Education, the Franklin College for Arts and Sciences, and UGA Libraries. Kaltura allows people to create, upload and publish their videos, such as webcam recordings and screenshots. Additional information about Kaltura will be announced soon. For more information about the end of the USG podcasting service, please contact Robert Ethier in EITS at rethier@uga.edu. For questions about Kaltura, please contact Dr. Sherry Clouser at CTL at sac@uga.edu by email. For questions about Kaltura's use in online programs or online courses, please contact James Castle, Office of Online Learning instructional designer, at jcastle@uga.edu by email.

    -   *FAR to be Decommissioned on June 15:* The UGA Faculty Activity Repository (FAR) will be decommissioned on June 15. Faculty are advised to stop updating their data in FAR (farapp.uga.edu) by June 15. FAR is being replaced with a new system called UGA Elements, which will be the mandatory reporting tool. UGA Elements will be launched in fall and will be the primary source of data regarding the research, scholarship, service, awards and honors of UGA faculty. Beginning in 2016, all UGA faculty will be required to use the new system to facilitate the annual performance evaluation process. Each college and school has identified an administrative liaison as an initial point of contact for UGA Elements. The administrative liaisons may designate additional contacts for each college and school. EITS is working with the Office of Academic Planning, the Office of the Vice President for Research, and the Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost on the UGA Elements project. Additional information about UGA Elements will be forthcoming and posted at http://elements.uga.edu.

2. <u>Support for Student Technology Services</u>

    -   *New Technology Guide for Students Now Available:* The EITS Student Guide is now available on the EITS website for students to view and download as a PDF. The student guide has been a popular resource for new students. EITS distributes the guide annually to students at orientation and various events throughout the academic year. The guide highlights the most popular technology services available to UGA students, including UGAMail, eLearning Commons (eLC), PAWS-Secure wireless and more. Students shown in the guide are from the UGA Visitors Center and Arch Society. The photos will also be

used in other marketing materials to promote technology services available to UGA students. Besides the student guide, the EITS website also includes a new student tech checklist. For more information, or to view the new student guide, please visit http://newtocampus.uga.edu. To receive print copies of the EITS Student Guide for your department, please contact Kerri Testement at kerriuga@uga.edu by email.

3. Support for Academic and Administrative Computing

- *Mainframe Upgrade Expected to Result in Cost Savings:* UGA's mainframe has been upgraded to a more efficient platform that is expected to result in a significant cost savings for the University. The mainframe supports a number of administrative and access systems for the University. As the University transitions to new systems, such as Banner for student data, and a proposed new finance and HR administrative system, the workloads on the mainframe are reducing. For more information about the mainframe upgrade, please contact Shannon Marable at Shannon.marable@uga.edu by email.

- *Product Demonstrations Held for Finance, Administrative Solutions:* An advisory team assessing the University's readiness for proposed next generation finance and administrative solutions recently facilitated several product demonstrations by vendors. These demonstrations for PeopleSoft Financials, PeopleSoft Grants and Hyperion Budgeting were intended to identify any potential high-level gaps between functionality provided by PeopleSoft and the University's business and academic needs. The advisory team has spent about a year assessing the University's readiness to upgrade its finance and administrative systems to a more modern, user-friendly commercial solution. The University's consultant for the readiness assessment, Collegiate Project Services, is expected to deliver a report this summer that will outline a refined budget for a potential project to implement a replacement for the University's core finance and administrative systems. An administrative decision on the direction of a proposed PeopleSoft project is expected in the coming months. For more information about this project, please contact Chris Wilkins at chris.wilkins@uga.edu by email.

- *Administrative System Includes Additional Security:* ARROW (Administrative Report Retrieval Over the Web) now requires visitors to use an ArchPass in order to access the online system. The ArchPass is an additional layer of security. UGA systems with ArchPass security require authorized users to possess a small device that generates a code to provide with their MyID and password in order to gain access to those systems. For ARROW, almost all of the authorized users had an ArchPass before the system was placed behind the additional security measure. ARROW users were notified prior to the implementation of ArchPass on the system. For more information about ARROW using ArchPass security, please contact the WebDFS Helpdesk at webdfs@uga.edu or 706-542-6763.

4. Support for Research

- *High Performance Storage Option Available for New Cluster:* The Georgia Advanced Computing Resources Center (GACRC) has a new scratch storage environment for its new cluster. This Lustre high performance file storage system is a leading technology for organizations with computer clusters. A select number of research groups have started to use the University's new cluster, which also includes this new scratch environment. The Vice President for Information Technology is funding the purchase for the new Lustre file storage system for the new cluster. For more information, please contact Dr. Guy Cormier at gcormier@uga.edu by email.

- *Training Workshops Scheduled for Researchers:* The Georgia Advanced Computing Resources Center (GACRC) is offering training workshops for researchers using its new cluster. The workshops are designed to introduce researchers to the new cluster, including its features, work flow and running jobs. The workshops will be held June 15 and June 22, both at 10 a.m., at the Institute of Bioinformatics at the Davidson Life Sciences Building in room C128. For more information, please contact Dr. Guy Cormier at gcormier@uga.edu by email.

5. Data Reporting and Analytics

- *Social Security Numbers Removed From Systems:* As part of an effort to minimize the risk of inappropriate access or use of Social Security numbers, EITS has removed approximately 2.5 million Social Security number records from the Faculty Reporting System. In lieu of Social Security numbers, these records for current and former faculty members are now associated with UGA ID numbers, which start with an 810 or 811 prefix. One of the primary strategic goals of EITS in recent times has included minimizing the University's information security risks by reducing usage and access of Social Security numbers in UGA systems. EITS completed a similar task for the University's central payroll, administrative, human resources, and financial systems in 2013 when it removed approximately 50 million Social Security number records and converted them to UGA IDs. For more information about this project, please contact Russell Hatfield at hatfield@uga.edu or Meihua Zhai at mzhai@uga.edu.

6. Core Campus Infrastructure

- *Major Network Maintenance Completed:* In an effort to ensure the continual growth and stability of the University's network services, EITS recently completed two major maintenance projects to UGA's network and web services. The projects were completed during two weekends in May and involved the coordination of a number of EITS technical teams. Campus-wide communications about the disruptions to UGA network and web services were also sent to students, faculty and staff. To minimize impact on the University community, the projects were scheduled at historically low demand periods for UGA's network and web services. For more information about these projects, please contact Christian Cummings at ccummin@uga.edu by email.

7. Did You Know?

- Dr. Timothy M. Chester, Vice President for Information Technology, has published his annual priorities memo on the EITS website under the "About" section. Using results of the annual TechQual+ survey of students, faculty and staff, the memo outlines the top IT priorities and strategic goals for the University in FY16. Dr. Chester also outlined these priorities in an all-staff meeting dedicated to sharing and discussing the priorities. The memo is available at: http://eits.uga.edu/about/2015_priorities.

- CAS, or the Central Authentication Service, is a single sign-on service used by many University applications, such as Athena and the UGA employee self-service site, to ensure a secure and consistent log-in process for students, faculty and staff with MyIDs. Before logging into an application through CAS, users are encouraged to look for a green lock icon in the left corner of the web browser toolbar. This ensures they are interacting with the real CAS site, not a scam or phishing site. Users who log into CAS on a shared computer are also reminded to log out and close the web browser when they are finished

with their session. For more about the benefits of CAS, visit the EITS website at http://t.uga.edu/1y6.

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.