Technology

Technology is key to most things that we do at Salisbury University. The University has been recognized nationally for innovation and technology leadership. SU was selected as one the Most Wired Campuses by Yahoo Magazine in 2001 and as a Princeton Review Most Connected Campus in 2003. Salisbury was recognized for best practices in storage network design and innovation by Storage Network World 2006 and was selected in 2006 to the InfoWorld 100 list for storage consolidation and centralized data management among both corporate and higher education institutions.

Infrastructure

With the addition of the Teacher Education and Technology Center (TETC) in 2008, SU now provides over 140 high-tech classrooms. The data network of 8,000 ports extends to campus offices, classrooms, and recreation spaces. With over 300 “hot spots,” wireless Internet access is available in all academic, administrative, and residential facilities. SU also operates five Internet-based distance learning rooms which are used to deliver the social work bachelor’s and master’s programs to two higher education centers and a Maryland community college and the respiratory therapy program to Shady Grove.

Information Management Systems

In 2002 and 2003, the University created the beginnings of the “Virtual Student Services Center” by implementing PeopleSoft, now known as GullNet. This significant project has brought many campus services to the Internet. Services to faculty and students have been expanded and are now offered around the clock over the Web. All of this has resulted in great technological change and also has led to a change in the campus business process and culture. SU staff have leveraged this system by integrating a customer relationship management system to assist in student recruitment and also have developed a residence life management system.

In 2007, SU became one of the first campuses in the United States to upgrade to Oracle PeopleSoft Enterprise Campus Solutions 9.0. The student management software package allows students to find course schedules, billing, financial aid information, and degree progress reports more quickly than past PeopleSoft systems. Faculty may also use the new system to view teaching schedules, class rosters, and advisee degree progress reports.

SU also recently upgraded to PeopleSoft Enterprise Human Capital Management 9.0 and PeopleSoft Enterprise Financial Management 8.9, simplifying processes that allow faculty and staff to monitor benefits and pay records, update personal information, and record professional development experiences.

Student and Faculty Access

A review of the course offerings in business administration, accounting, elementary education, psychology, art, music, communications, biology, geography, mathematics, and many other disciplines supports the position that technology is indeed strategic at Salisbury University, not just tactical. The student technology survey administered in spring 2009 revealed that over 99 percent of SU undergraduates own a computer. Over 96 percent have high-speed, broadband access to the Internet 24 hours a day, whether they reside on or off campus.
SU Students Provide Feedback on Technology

Salisbury University’s 2009 student technology survey revealed that many students have high technological expectations—which the University is meeting. Some interesting insights that have emerged from the survey:

- The desktop computer is disappearing. While some 99 percent of all students responding to the survey owned computers, 80 percent of those computers were laptops. The preference for laptops has been growing consistently and is up 12 percent from 2008.

- Almost all students (98 percent) have Internet access in their homes. Some 95 percent have high-speed access.

- More than 77 percent of students reported that SU’s e-mail system was the best way to contact them. Sixty-two percent reported that SU e-mail was their primary e-mail account.

- In spring 2009, some 28 percent of students reported using “clickers” (electronic student response system) for in-class surveys, quizzes, and attendance. Over 85 percent said that their professors use Web pages or systems to provide instructional material.

Expanding Facilities

In 2008, the new TETC brought online four new general computer labs, two multi-media computer labs, two teacher education computer labs, and five student technology collaboration suites. The IT Helpdesk moved to the new building and continues to expand the range of support services that are currently provided.

Technology on campus moves to the next level in the TETC with a new Integrated Media Center (IMC). The IMC serves the Seidel School, the Fulton School of Liberal Arts, and the entire campus. It includes a 3,000-square-foot, high definition video studio, a video demonstration lab, an audio recording studio, digital integration lab, editing facilities, video and audio production bays, and digital photography center. A cutting-edge multi-media art exhibition gallery includes plasma screens, digital projection, and its own control room.

Bringing faculty together from across disciplines, the IMC allows students to create, in digital video, animation, music composition, Web, DVD, CD, broadcasting, performing and visual arts, and other cross-disciplinary media. The integrated concept will also lead to the development of new majors and additional areas of concentration. The first academic program developed specifically with the new facilities in mind started in fall 2009, the Music Technology Track for the B.A. in music.

SMART classrooms have become ubiquitous on campus. SU operates 140 SMART rooms (100 percent of all teaching spaces) and the number is still growing. These rooms represent a new standard for teaching facilities, providing a computer, digital projector, video (VCR or DVD) device, document cameras, and both Internet and cable television connectivity. Essentially every SMART room is a high-tech teaching facility and distance learning room.

SU also provides faculty with instructional technology support in the Fulton Teaching and Resource Center. The new facility in the TETC provides a state-of-the-art training studio and support staff to assist faculty as they add rich technology and content to their courses and Web sites.
Salisbury University has a strong institutional commitment to diversity and is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer, providing equal employment and educational opportunities to all those qualified, without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, or sexual orientation.