

News from IT, January 31, 2005



MU Now E911 Compliant – On December 23, the university completed a year-long project to initiate campus E911 service. Prior to implementation, a call to 911 from campus would inform Tioga County dispatchers only that someone was calling from Mansfield University. If a caller was unable to speak or was disconnected before giving location information, there was no immediate way of locating them. Today, Emergency Services personnel receive telephone number, street address, building, and room information on their information screens as the call is received. The capability exists within the system to advise dispatchers of additional important information, such as if the person assigned to that phone has a physical handicap or the phone is located in an area housing hazardous materials.

MU is the first private telephone system operating in Commonwealth Telephone's territory to deploy a complete E911 solution. The implementation had to overcome significant bureaucratic and technical obstacles, this being done through a concerted effort led by Information Technology and involving Buildings and Grounds, Tioga County Emergency Services, Commonwealth Telephone Company and Verizon.

Computer Lab Upgrades In-Process – We continue to enhance the technology available to students by improving and expanding lab facilities. Over the Christmas break the Math lab, Elliot 217, was moved to new quarters in Elliot 113 to make way for a new networking lab, with construction scheduled to start this spring, and completion in time for fall classes. The CIS lab, Elliot 207, is being replaced with new systems. The old systems are scheduled to be used to upgrade our Residence Hall labs. Rounding off upgrades for this semester is a new 15 station computer lab scheduled to be installed at our Sayre campus in the coming weeks.

IT “Brown Bags” in February and March – IT announces it will host two informational “Brown Bag” lunches this semester. *Wireless Networking* will be the topic of the February brown bag, to be held Monday, February 28 at noon in Alumni Hall 307. At that time, we will discuss the current status of wireless projects on campus and how to access them, share wireless networking plans for the short and long-term and give an intro to home wireless setup. We will announce the topic and date for the March Brown Bag in the February edition of the *News*, coming sooner than you think to an IN box near you.