

News from IT,  
March 31, 2005



**Moving ahead with wireless:** I.T. is pleased to report that our wireless project is on-track and proceeding rapidly. When we publicly announced our wireless initiative, the Manser food court was already in-service as our first wireless hotspot. At AHUB, the full third floor is now wireless-accessible, as is Jazzman's Café. Even the benches at the main entrance near North Hall have wireless service available.

What's in the works? The wireless rollout continues in the North Hall Library. Next: Wireless hotspots for Butler Center's "Soupy Sales" lounge followed by one in Elliot for the lounge area outside the CIS lab. Once the weather improves, we will provide additional wireless coverage to the South Hall Mall and add service to the grassy space in front of Memorial. Hemlock will contain a wireless lounge area when the South Hall move is completed this summer.

To review our plans and progress with the wireless project, or to learn how to connect your wireless-enabled device, refer to our wireless project web site: <http://wireless.mansfield.edu>.

**Microsoft Productivity updates continue:** Several upgrades and updates to campus desktop platforms continue. As announced last month, a change from Eudora Email to Microsoft Outlook 2003 with Exchange Server 2003 has begun.

The upgrade to Outlook/Exchange includes individual and group calendaring and other productivity tools. Outlook Web Access (OWA) is included as part of the roll-out. OWA will be used to reach your e-mail from off-campus or if you "reside" in multiple office locations on campus, to replace the WebMail (IMAIL) web-based Email system you may be using now.

The Outlook/Exchange migration requires a technician to visit every desktop, so the pace of the conversion is slow. At conversion time,

you will also receive the entire Office 2003 Suite which includes a newer Excel, Word, Access, PowerPoint and Publisher. North Hall 5<sup>th</sup> floor, I.T., and Alumni Hall have already been moved to the new products. Library staff will be updated beginning in April, with Doane Center to follow. We will continue with administrative areas of campus through the end of the semester, with faculty and staff in academic buildings to be migrated building-by-building over the summer.

As buildings are converted to the Outlook/Exchange platform, training will be offered to those who have just been converted to the product. IT will offer training on a weekly basis for the foreseeable future. As a general rule, training is scheduled to occur on Tuesday afternoons, but you should check the [Training Calendar](#) to be certain of the dates and times.

We ask, before you sign up for training, that your E-mail has been moved to the Outlook/Exchange system. You will be using your personal Email account during training, so not having Outlook/Exchange will not provide the training experience needed to use the product. Current training is for basic use of the Outlook/Exchange product, and will be soon followed by intermediate and advanced course offerings.

This project is a part of a larger change to integrate our campus with planned PaSSHE system architecture. When complete, enhanced state-wide connections are expected to provide easier access to the full suite of PaSSHE services including the SAP Enterprise system and Blackboard. A system-wide Exchange service will allow any PaSSHE user to easily locate contact information for any other PaSSHE user, as well as enhancing inter-university collaboration.

As a reminder: Mansfield students will not be migrated to Exchange. They will continue to use web-based IMAIL for communications services.

All our computer labs/classrooms will have MS Office 2003 by Fall 2005, with that migration beginning as soon as the semester is

completed. If you are teaching a summer class and require more information for ordering your text materials, please contact [amiller@mansfield.edu](mailto:amiller@mansfield.edu).

**IT contemplates bypass of South Hall:** The anticipated demolition of South Hall is a very big deal for IT. For over 40 years, South Hall has been the location where all communications services from the outside world have entered campus. Since 1987, South Hall has provided a convenient “feeder” for our own telephone system to supply services to all campus buildings south of that location. When the decision was made to raze South Hall, work began to craft a scenario where telephone services could migrate to other facilities with minimal impact on campus communications. In keeping with IT’s mandate to provide the most robust communications solutions possible, funding was requested to provide not one, but two sites as new demarcation locations: In this way planned or unplanned destruction of any one building would not spell disaster to all campus communications. To this end, Buildings and Grounds provided a new cable entrance for Alumni Hall and Elliot Hall last summer. Funding to perform the actual move of the Commonwealth Telephone demarc was recently obtained, and as this issue of the *News* is released, Commonwealth Telephone line crews have begun construction. Each entry point is designed to be capable of bearing the entire load of university voice and data traffic if necessary. The actual move of telephone services from South Hall to the new facilities will be scheduled in the near future, and should occur with no noticeable interruption of service to the campus community.

The second step in the South Hall bypass is more difficult. New conduits must be constructed from Alumni Hall to College Place, connecting with existing wire and cable splices behind Laurel dormitory. The University’s Construction Planning group is working with DGS to obtain funds for this construction, which must be completed before South Hall demolition can begin.