Connections continued from front cover

chemistry, engineering, physics, computer science, and medical applications involving high resolution images.

The July 27 announcement of the Broadband Ohio initia-

E-mail Numbers Keep Adding Up

month, except for the month of November 2007.

month of 11,460,665 e-mails, of which 11,157,628 were spam. One of the reasons that the University’s e-mail system, the numbers continue to increase at an amazing rate.

month of 39,228,644, the percentage of which was spam. Since the opening of the University’s e-mail system, the numbers continue to increase at an amazing rate.

month of 239,887,353, the percentage of which was spam. Since the opening of the University’s e-mail system, the numbers continue to increase at an amazing rate.

October 2007

For the University of Mississippi Faculty and Staff

Tech News

University of Mississippi

Oxford  Jackson  Tupelo  Southern

Information Technology

P.O. Box 1848

University, MS 38677-1848

Got a technology question or issue you’d like us to cover? E-mail your suggestions to technews@olemiss.edu!
For Mary Robinson,
Telecom Has Global Possibilities

According to the UM Telecommunications Center Web site, if each strand of optical fiber on campus were connected end-to-end, it would stretch 2,941,016 feet, or approximately 557 miles.

Mary Robinson, the Center’s Outdoor Plant Supervisor, says it’s important to know the location of every inch of fiber, not to mention all the other phone and cable TV lines for which she’s responsible.

“We’ve got a lot of construction on campus, and if a contractor is going to dig, we’ve got to be able to pinpoint the exact location of our cables,” Robinson explains. “If we were ever hit by a storm and debris covered our manholes, then we would need a way to locate them as well.”

Using a new handheld GPS field computer, Robinson and technician Jody Allen were able to install the software on all 24 of our lab computers, and manholes spread across the UM campus.

GPS stands for Global Positioning System, described on www.gps.gov as a “space-based radionavigation system that provides reliable positioning, navigation, and timing services to civilian users on a continuous worldwide basis.”

“Using GPS is going to be very helpful,” Robinson comments. “Telecom can record not only where a cable is, but how many fibers it has and how many of them are being used,” Robinson says. “That kind of information is invaluable because you can look at a campus map and see where there is spare fiber capability.”

UMGC plans to provide some GPS/GIS training for Telecommunications and Physical Plant later this semester, but Mary Robinson has a little extra help in mind.

“My husband uses a GPS system when he’s fishing to mark different points,” she explains. “He knows a lot about it and is going to help me learn.”

A native of Oxford, Robinson joined the Telecommunications Center in 1994 and has found the work very much to her liking.

“I love being outdoors and I’ve always liked fishing to mark different points,” she explains. “I don’t see a lot of women doing what I do, so I guess it’s pretty unusual, but they say it’s actually easier for women to work with the fiber, because their hands are smaller, and the fiber is really small, like the size of a hair.”

Visit www.olemiss.edu/depts/telephone_exchange for information on the Telecommunications Center and umgc.olemiss.edu for more about the UMGC.

Meet Me on the Phone

Thanks to a recent upgrade, the Telecommunications Center now offers Meet-Me Conferencing, a telephone service university departments can use to schedule and host conference calls involving up to six participants.

A Meet-Me conference call may be set up by contacting telecommunications at 915-5922 with the date and time of the planned call. The request must be made one business day prior to the call in order for telecommunications to provide an access code for all participants. The call may be held in on or off campus.

The department that schedules the call must provide a cost center number and is responsible for all associated costs. The rate is 15 cents a minute, with the total cost determined by the duration of the call multiplied by the number of participants.

“We’re excited to offer this service because it provides a savings of 6 cents a minute per caller on each conference call,” states Michele Mize, the Center’s Associate Director. “That can add up to real savings over a year’s time for those departments use conference calling a lot.”

Sylvia Davis, Executive Secretary in the Office of the Chancellor, recently utilized the new conferencing service for an IHL Presidents meeting.

“I've found their service incredibly dependable,” Hubbard comments. “If there is ever a problem with a projector or multimedia lectern, I can always count on them to address the issue expediently.”

UMCT is a program administered by the Office of Information Technology (IT) with funding from the Provost’s Office. UMCT equipment, including multimedia lecterns, LCD projectors, and screens, has been installed in approximately 50 classrooms on campus.

An instructor teaching in a UMCT classroom may call the IT Helpdesk at 915-5222 for immediate technical assistance. If the issue cannot be resolved on a regular basis, Savell explains. “Instructors who attend training find it very beneficial as it only takes a few minutes to cover some of the most common technical issues they might encounter in the classroom.”

The UMCT Web site at www.olemiss.edu/umct offers detailed information on each classroom, including the local contact person, type of equipment available, and any relevant documentation or instructions. The site includes an online form instructors can use to report technical problems.

For more information on Classroom Technology services or training, please e-mail umct@olemiss.edu or call the IT Helpdesk at 915-5222.