Internet issues resolved

BY JOSHUA WILSON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Slow wireless Internet is becoming a thing of the past on the Carey campus as Information Technology department officials work to permanently solve the problem.

Director of Information Technology Jeffrey Andrews said his department had “listened and responded” to student complaints about the slow wireless and had mostly resolved the issue with the purchase of another Internet circuit.

“The new circuit splits Internet traffic between the College of Osteopathic Medicine (COM) and the general student population in order to make the wireless speedier,” he said.

Before the purchase of the new circuit, the bandwidth, or the transmission capacity of the University’s Internet connection, had been “choked” due to increased demand on it from the 200 medical students at the COM, said Andrews.

“Theyir usage was higher because they needed to download large files, like PowerPoint, PDF files for lectures,” he said.

Andrews said that as a result of that and multiple other factors, like the overburdening of the connection with many more devices connected to the wireless than last year, the entire student population faced the “choked” bandwidth.

Information Technology officials were then forced to use LightSpeed, the University’s Internet filter and content management system, to provide more bandwidth for educational resources and limit the amount available for entertainment sites like Facebook or YouTube, he said.

Now, with the purchase of the new circuit, wireless speed has seen a “dramatic improvement,” said Andrews.

“We’re in a lot better position than we were earlier this school year,” he said.

Carey students seem to agree. “I’ve noticed that the Internet is much faster than it was last trimester,” said junior Michael Chancellor.

Sophomore Deepali Amatyia said she’s thankful that she can now use the Internet on her laptop instead of having to visit the library to use it.

“I am grateful the Internet is faster,” she said. “I can watch videos on YouTube, play Pandora 24/7, and log onto my D2L and e-mail without a problem.”

Andrews said that the wireless should see more improvements in the first quarter of 2012 as Comcast, the University’s Internet provider, prepares to offer increased bandwidth to the University.

“When they do increase the bandwidth, we’ll be on it the day it goes live,” he said.

In other technology matters, Andrews said the WEPA printers, which have presented some problems to students since they were implemented in August, could be looking at some improvements soon as well.

“The company is looking at several things to provide easier use and access, such as ID card integration.” he said. “We’re seeing improvements now in the service.”

Andrews admitted that he expected the WEPA printers to be “cleaner,” but said the service is provided by a brand-new company out of Birmingham, Ala., that is still growing and learning.

“They’re a first-generation company and they’re learning a lot,” he said. Andrews also urged students to use their $3 worth of free printing that are available on the printers.

“The University pays for it, so if students don’t use it, it’s not a good situation,” he said.

Andrews said that after the $3 is used, students can purchase more printing access through the WEPA website or by purchasing preloaded print cards at the library, business office or Student Support Services.

“Right now, they only sell those cards in $10 denominations, but we’re ordering cards in different denominations of $2, $5, and $10 that should be available right around Christmas,” he said.

With the wireless Internet problem seemingly resolved and the WEPA printers continually improving, Andrews said he has been free to work on the new University website, which should be up by January.

“The structure of the website is done and is now in the hands of the developers,” he said. “We’re on track for a January launch.”

Andrews said the new website will provide a more graphically friendly user interface than the current one and will also allow individual departments to upload their own content.

“It’ll be a great thing,” he said.

At A Glance

IT officials report that the wireless Internet issues have been resolved with the purchase of another Internet circuit.

The new circuit splits wireless traffic between the College of Osteopathic Medicine and the general student population.

WEPA printers could be seeing ease-of-access fixes in the near future, such as ID card integration.

WEPA printing cards will soon be available in the amounts of $2, $5, and still in the $10 amount.

The new Carey website is on track for a January launch.

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Carey statue arrives on campus
Namesake’s life on display in piece

BY CHRISTOPHER DIXON
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

A statue of the University’s namesake William Carey has recently been added to the Hattiesburg campus.

The seven-foot, 600-pound bronze piece, which sits in front of the Sarah Gillespie Museum, was sculpted by local sculptor and Columbia native Ben Watts. Watts has achieved fame over the years for works like a Golden Eagle statue outside of the University of Southern Mississippi’s Alumni House, a statue of Walter Payton for the Columbia football stadium and a John Wesley statue for the Millsaps College campus.

The statue was placed on the campus in commemoration of the yearlong celebration of the 250th anniversary of the birth of William Carey, who is known as the “Father of Modern Missions” for his work in India.

The completion of the clay model of the statue, which is titled “Carey Turns To The World,” took approximately five months of work in Columbia, with the firing, or finishing, process taking place in Texas. Funding for the statue was gained through private donations, with about 20 miniature versions of the statue being sold by the University to gain the funds necessary to complete the project.

The sculpture symbolizes the exact moment when Carey decided to depart from his humble profession as a cobbler (a person who mends shoes) to dedicate his life to ministry and missions abroad.

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The various objects included in the scene, whether the Holy Bible in his grasp, the cobbler tools on his work bench, or the mystical copy of Flora, his historic work in botany that is found under the beach, all represent various accomplishments and aspects of the life and work of Carey.

“The presence of the life-size statue on our campus will be a constant reminder to students and visitors of the impact of this remarkable man and a challenge for us to accept his challenge to expect great things from God and attempt great things for God,” said WCU President Dr. Tommy King.

Music therapy students assist special needs children

Music therapy students assist special needs children

From Staff Reports

Dr. Paul Cotten, professor of music and psychology at William Carey University, has established a program that allows Carey students in the music therapy program to provide music therapy experiences for local special needs children from South Forrest Attendance Center and Forrest County Agricultural High School for an hour each week.

The students from South Forrest travel to the Carey campus for an hour session each week during which WCU freshmen and sophomore music therapy students engage in group songs and activities that develop and enhance motor and social skills, as well as memory and creativity.

Junior and senior music therapy students provide individual music therapy for the FCAHS students for an hour each week. Each of the students from FCAHS is paired with a Carey student for the year. After assessment of their child, each WCU student, in collaboration with their professors, develops a treatment program to address the child’s special needs. Recognizing that music is a great medium to help children learn, the individual program uses songs, music and movement to teach social, motor, and educational skills.

The program will continue throughout the academic year.

Over the course of their careers in music therapy, students will work with children and adults with emotional problems, mental handicaps, cognitive disabilities, and other special needs. This program allows WCU majors in this field to gain hands-on experience working with clients, while at the same time giving the students from these two schools an opportunity to learn and develop.

“Music is a great tool to develop and reinforce basic skills,” said Cotten. “This program requires WCU music therapy majors to be proficient on guitar and piano, and to be creative so that they can use the music and songs efficiently to teach things like parts of the body, right from left, and other skills.”

In addition to the two classes on Tuesdays, WCU music therapy students also work with special needs adults through a Pine Belt Mental Healthcare program on Wednesdays.

WCU’s music therapy program was the first in the state and is now one of only two in the state. It is accredited by the American Music Therapy Association.

Upcoming Christmas Events

Christmas Dinner and Vesper Service
Nov. 29 beginning at 4 p.m.

Carey Christmas Festival
Dec. 2 and 3 at 7 p.m. each night

Deck Your Halls Contest Begins
Nov. 30

Christmas Break
Dec. 17 - Jan. 8

The Cobbler will publish a print edition on Dec. 14.

Happy holidays!