

# ITS improves wireless Internet on campus

BY CHRIS BONING  
Assistant News Editor

Summer was no time to relax for the folks at Information Technology Services.

ITS recently upgraded the University's wireless network and designed a new school Web site, among other improvements. Students can now look forward to faster Internet access on campus.

The first of the summer upgrades is expanded bandwidth capacity. ITS increased the capacity from 40 megabytes per second to 60 megabytes per second Aug. 10. The increase is the University's third in as many years.

George Beshears, executive director of ITS, said a variety of factors played a role in expanding the school's bandwidth, although some were more prominent than others.

"Student request was the main driver," he said.

The most common demand was for greater bandwidth during the working hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Beshears said.

He said a surge in the use of video and MP3 files for educational purposes also prompted the increase in bandwidth. A greater bandwidth means both faster downloads and faster Internet connection, so students should be able to notice immediately, Beshears said.

Students also will find it easier to access the Internet. Beshears said that now that wireless is campus-wide, ITS is fortifying it through additional Internet entry points first in the residence halls and then elsewhere.

Another change is the

addition of a secure wireless network on campus. Matt Farwell, ITS technical director, said the primary difference between the University's old open and new secure wireless networks is the strength of encryption as data is sent over the Internet.

Farwell said an online certificate that tags the computer in use generates an algorithm that in turn creates the secure encryption. The time required to decipher the encryption in a secured network would not be worth the trouble to a hacker, he said.

Farwell said the Information Technology Services Advisory Committee recommended the switch to a secure network.

"When we originally put the wireless network up years ago, we picked the best technology at the time," he said. "Encryption has gotten better and protection has gotten better, so to keep up with emerging threats and to get better security we went ahead and upgraded."

Beshears said the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act, initially passed in 1994, also influenced the switch to a secure network. New CALEA regulations stipulate that certain entities, such as universities, may no longer have open wireless networks, he said.

Beshears said the new secure network is already up and will run parallel to the old network until a date yet to be decided. Students who log on to the Internet on campus will be directed to a Web site with instructions for joining the secure network, he said.

Farwell said the Cisco Clean Access program already in use will appear every time a user signs on to campus wireless. This will both further strengthen the protection of the secure network and eliminate some steps involved in using wireless, he said.

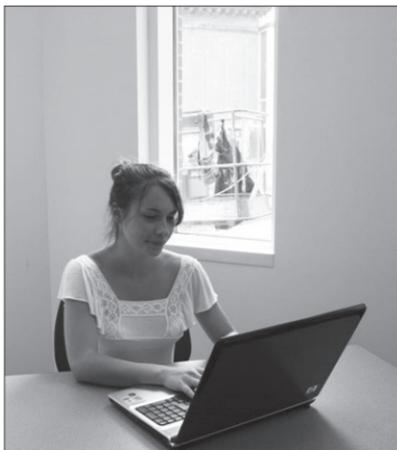
"The real theme, I think, to our upgrades is essentially safer and simpler," he said. "We'll make everything the same — so everybody knows it's something they're familiar with — [then] safer and simpler, [with] better encryption, better protection. It's less steps to get a new laptop set up on wireless, and it's safer. And it's the same."

Farwell said another component of the updated wireless is the new guest portal for those who need to access the network temporarily, such as presenters and lecturers.

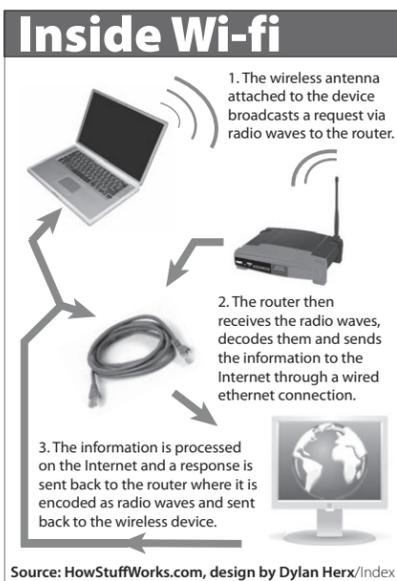
Beshears said the only immediate costs for the upgrades were labor and research because the necessary software had been bought some time in advance.

In addition to the bandwidth expansion and upgrades to the wireless network, ITS also has designed a new University Web site with updated pictures and content. Beshears said his department does this roughly every three years and will hold a celebratory kick-off and online "scavenger hunt" during the first week of classes.

Senior Erin Zevely said she doesn't use a laptop on campus often but approved of the upgrades nonetheless. "If it goes faster, I'm all for it," she said.



Jason Williams/Index  
Melanie Blin works on her wireless laptop computer in a Missouri Hall lounge Thursday.



## School searches for professors and administrators

BY JULIE WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Truman is still waiting on that special someone.

Jobs at Truman are opening, closing and shuffling as the University works to fill all teaching and administrative positions before classes start Aug. 27. Unsuccessful searches have caused some administrators and staff members to put a hold on their future plans, while other searches have resulted in permanent and interim replacements.

A national search is underway with a professional firm at the helm to replace Garry Gordon, vice president of academic affairs. Gordon was to step down from his position June 30, but he will now remain vice president for another year as University President Barbara Dixon continues to look for a replacement.

"I'm not sure how long that process will take," said Ralph Cupelli, assistant to

the vice president for academic affairs.

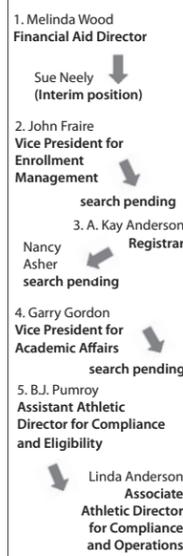
After determining that the position could not be filled before Jan. 1, the decision was made that Gordon would stay in his position another year. Cupelli also said Gordon will remain to help oversee the reorganization plan.

Gordon could not be reached for comment. A large number of vacant faculty positions were also filled for the upcoming school year.

"We have 28 full-time faculty we've hired right now and four temporary part-time that are new to Truman this semester," Cupelli said. "Then we have three new searches we're still working on before school starts."

Even though the overall turnover rate is a little higher than normal this year, Cupelli said he thinks it has nothing to do with disagreement over the restructuring effort. He said he thinks an

### Changing guard



increased number of retirements and other job opportunities played a big role in the job shuffling.

Cupelli said the new

academic structure of the University contributed to the need to fill more positions this year also. The new structure organizes the academic divisions into three separate colleges, and a department chair heads each department within those colleges.

"We do have a lot more new faculty coming in," Cupelli said. "Part of that is [because we] went to the new department structure so some of those new faculty are replacing the department chair teaching load."

At the end of the month, another job will open when John Fraire, vice president of enrollment management, steps down from his position. Fraire's departure will not only prompt another search, which will also be handled by Dixon, but will also create a wrinkle in the current searches.

Melinda Wood, former financial aid director, said the decision was made that Fraire's position would be filled first and then the search for a financial aid director would continue. Until that happens, Wood has decided to hold full re-

irement off and is working 20-hour weeks to help Sue Neely, interim financial aid director, make the transition.

"It's just really nice," Wood said of the opportunity to remain in the financial aid department. "I've always loved my job, so it's great to just be able to come in and just get as much done as I can and help out."

Down the hall from Wood and Neely, the registrar's office will also be under new leadership. Nancy Asher, who also is the coordinator of testing and reporting, has assumed the role of interim registrar for the upcoming school year.

Asher said balancing full-time responsibilities in two offices requires a lot of prioritizing.

"There are some definite deadlines in both jobs that are creeping up as of Truman Week and the start of school," Asher said. "I work during the day mostly on registrar stuff, and in the evenings mostly on testing stuff and then whatever else happens to be the next priority."

## NEWS | In Brief

### City adds disc golf course to park

A nine-hole disc golf course will soon be added to Kirksville's Rotary Park.

Steve Bell, Kirksville community services director, said construction on the course is targeted to begin the first week of September and should be completed two weeks later. The course will include tee boxes, par scores, benches and signs and will cover the entire park. It will be laid out so players do not interfere with other activities going on in the park.

Bell said the idea for a disc golf course came from Brian Peavey, a student at A.T. Still University of Health Sciences who plays the game. Bell said Peavey, together with the Kirksville Rotary Club, wanted to develop a more sophisticated looking course in Kirksville rather than play on a makeshift course where the holes were only marked by trees.

The course will cost \$12,000 to build, and Bell said a fundraising effort by members of the Rotary Club of A.T. Still is under way.

### Kirksville receives grant for sidewalks

The Missouri Department of Transportation recently awarded the city of Kirksville an Enhancement Grant to go towards repairing sidewalks. Kris McKim, assistant city manager, said the grant is worth \$228,834. The city is responsible for an additional \$66,166, bringing the total cost of the project to \$295,000.

McKim said some of the sections of sidewalk that will be mended are located south of LaHarpe Street on both sides of Baltimore Street and between Illinois Street and New Street. An underground culvert also is being converted into a walkway and will connect the east sidewalk on Baltimore Street with Rotary Park.

The repairs will begin next construction season, or mid-2008, because the city currently is replacing the water mains around the Square. MoDOT Enhancement Grants are specifically for projects other than the repair of roads and highways, McKim said.

### Blunt increases aid to farmers, students

Gov. Matt Blunt has announced plans that will continue his efforts to help Missouri's farmers, according to a press release issued Thursday. Blunt will first expand the state-funded Adult Agricultural Education Program, which instructs farmers on how to better manage their farms.

The program is available for both experienced and fledgling farmers and is administered by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Blunt pledged to increase the program's funding by \$400,000, the news release said.

Earlier in the year Blunt approved the creation of the Large Animal Veterinary Student Loan Program, which benefits both farmers and college students. The legislation guarantees farmers in the state's underserved areas access to veterinary care for large livestock.

The program also provides incentives for students pursuing a degree in veterinary care. The governor said Thursday that he will recommend \$480,000, or full funding, for the program in the next state budget, according to the release.

### Index publishes special edition

Today is the special Truman Week edition of the Index, the University's own student-produced newspaper. The Index comes out on Thursdays and publishes 14 issues per semester. The Index office is located on the first floor of Barnett Hall.

Following the Sunday, August 19 edition, regular publication will resume Thursday, August 30.

### DPSI Reports

- 8/9 Report of theft from Magruder Hall
- 8/2 Report of theft from President Dixon's home at 706 S. Halliburton
- 7/17 Report of damage to vehicle
- 7/16 Report of theft from Ophelia Parrish
- 7/6 Report of damage to vehicle  
Report of property damage in Baldwin Hall
- 6/22 Report of arson at Stokes Stadium
- 6/11 Report of property damage in Magruder Hall
- 6/8 Report of theft from Kirk Building
- 6/6 Report of bicycle theft
- 6/5 Report of bicycle theft
- 6/4 Report of bicycle theft

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