Telehealth In West Kentucky

The Center for Telecommunications Systems Management (CTSM) has partnered with the Trover Foundation in Madisonville to implement the Kentucky Telehealth Network (KTHN) for Western Kentucky to facilitate improved health-care in rural areas.

The Trover Foundation approached Murray State University's CTSM requesting help for implementation of the Telehealth Network in Western Kentucky. Currently, the KTHN has 24 participating sites statewide. There are nine sites in Western Kentucky including: Cumberland County Hospital, Marshall County Health Department, Monroe County Medical Center, Murray-Calloway Hospital, Owensboro-Mercy Health System, TJ Sampson Community Hospital in Glasgow, Trover Clinic in Madisonville, Trover Clinic in Morganfield and Western Baptist Hospital in Paducah. CTSM will continue to provide expertise for the Telehealth project. CTSM's special project/network coordinator Michael Ramage and graduate assistant Jack Smith have met with all participating sites and are currently connecting the hospitals on the KTHN.

The KTHN will allow a doctor in a major clinic to view an x-ray, observe an inner ear infection, or listen to a patient's heart remotely, potentially saving hours of driving time from rural areas of the state. If the doctor needed, he could even focus so closely that he could see the tiny ridges on a finger. These systems will also allow for the continuing education of healthcare professionals utilizing

HICKNESS

West Kentucky
TeleHealth
Network Sites

video conferencing.

Based on Governor Paul Patton's desire for better healthcare in Kentucky, the General Assembly acted on the issue. Representative Steve Nunn sponsored and promoted the two bills, HB 177 and HB 112, setting up the framework for the Kentucky Telehealth Network (KTHN). The legislation set up a KTHN Board of Directors and four training centers: University of Louisville, University of Kentucky, St. Claire Medical Center in Morehead and Trover Foundation in Madisonville.

All hospitals on the network will have a video conferencing unit along with different peripherals. Using a dedicated line, each location will connect to UofL, which will in turn connect to the rest of the state via UK's TeleCare.

For more information on the Kentucky Telehealth Network, contact Michael Ramage at michael.ramage@murraystate.edu or see the Kentucky Telehealth home page at

http://telehealth.state.ky.us.



www.murraystate.edu

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Center for Telecommunications Systems Management 207 Industry and Technology Center Murray, KY 42071-3347

The Center for Telecommunications Systems Management

Welcome from the Director



University's Center for Telecommunications
Systems Management (CTSM).
Please take a few minutes to examine this newsletter providing information about the progress of the program.

The past year has been a busy and exciting time for the center. Since the first director, Dr. Walter Bolter, left in January of 2001 for family health concerns, Dr. Phillip Sparks has served as interim director. Sparks has a multiplicity of experience giving him a unique vision of academia. After completing his doctorate from Purdue University, he was a full-time professor in the University of Wisconsin system. From 1978 to 1983 he was assistant dean in the college of environmental sciences at Murray State before entering private business where he developed a successful MicroAge Computer franchise that served West Kentucky and Northwest Tennessee until 2000

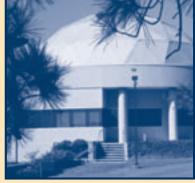
when the business was sold. Since the program is one with a joint business and technical focus, he has been able to use both his academic and business skills.

Other staff members for the center are Michael Ramage, special projects and network coordinator; Jeanie Carson, marketing specialist; and John Young, administrative secretary.

After reading about the center and the Telecommunications Systems Management Program at Murray State University,

if you have any questions or would like to schedule a visit with us, please give us a call anytime at (270) 762-3987.





M U R R A Y S T A T E U N I V E R S I T Y



The Center for Telecommunications Systems Management

Murray State to Host National Conference

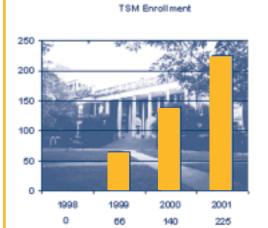
The TSM program will sponsor a national conference on the Murray campus April 25 and 26, 2002. Professionals and their students from across the nation will spend a day sharing information and insights from the field of telecommunications. The plenary session will be a panel of Murray State TSM faculty and staff telling about the initiation and development of the program here. Concurrent sessions follow in the area of student projects, teaching innovations and relevant research in telecommunications. A golf outing will climax the gathering on Friday afternoon. Come join us. the TSM Information is on website at www.murraystate.edu/tsm.

Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic. ~ Arthur C. Clarke

TSM Moves Toward Online Initiative

The Center for Telecommunications Systems Management (CTSM) is seeking funds to initiate a comprehensive, multifaceted distance-learning project focused on increasing the telecommunications workforce capabilities throughout the commonwealth. It appears that funds totaling \$550,000 will be forthcoming from the Commission for the New Economy, TSM program budget and the private sector. This project will build on the articulation agreement making available year three and four of the Murray State Program by implementing distance-learning techniques. The KCTCS curriculum for year one and two are also being prepared using an online format. Therefore, due to the collaboration, a fouryear program in telecommunications will be available to Kentucky residents anywhere in the commonwealth. In preparation for the distance-learning initiative, a consultant to faculty for developing their online courses will be added to the center's staff.

Building High School Relationships



For the past two years CTSM has been actively engaged in building relationships with the area high school students and instructors with Jeanie Carson coordinating this effort. In an attempt to inform college bound students about the telecommunications systems management program, the center has hosted three High School Days. With over 300 students and instructors attending, faculty presentations spotlighted "Career Exploration in Computer and Information Technology." Due to these and other efforts to inform students of careers awaiting them in the TSM field, enrollment has increased. Since the program was established in 1998, enrollment has increased to 225 with 76 being graduate students.

Future plans of CTSM's involvement with high schools include summer workshops that will allow the students hands-on experience in our labs. During this

two-week program, selected junior and senior students will interact with our faculty and have use of our TSM labs with the potential of earning credit hours toward the program requirements. These students will be selected from the recommendations of teachers and counselors using criteria established by TSM faculty.

Articulation Agreement

An articulation agreement has been worked out with the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) allowing students with applied science degrees in informational technology to enter Murray State as juniors and complete their baccalaureate degree in telecommunications systems management. Several community colleges in the commonwealth have expressed an interest in sending their students to Murray State. This agreement is particularly significant given the online initiative.

Closing the Digital Divide

Within the commonwealth there are areas that are technologically disadvantaged. One of these areas is Crittenden County where only five percent of the workforce has college training. Crittenden County is in the process of building a technology center where their citizens can receive needed training. Murray State's CTSM staff has consulted with the economic development executive director and made recommendations regarding the technological inclusions in the facility. The TSM and KCTCS faculty will work out curriculum pathways with the technology center for their site. The availability of distance-learning courses will be an asset to this type of center. Once a model is perfected, similar plans can be implemented at other centers throughout the commonwealth.

Staff Changes

Cathy Obien left earlier this year to join her fiance in San Antonio. Michael Ramage was hired as special projects and network coordinator. Michael has been a staff member here for two years while he was a graduate student, receiving his master's degree in December from the TSM program. He has been the programmer during the development of www.eXroads.com.

Faculty and Student Spotlight

The Center for Telecommunications Systems Management is proud to spotlight an outstanding faculty member, John McLaren, and a graduating senior of the TSM program, Laura Wolters.



John McLaren has been with the TSM program since its beginning and has been instrumental in developing TSM curriculum, along with web course development. He received the 2001 Regents Teaching Award for the College of Science, Engineering and Technology. Because of his expertise in this area, he now sits on the Illinois State Telecommunications Advisory

Committee as program coordinator. John has been quick to point out that "students are his number one priority" and this is evidenced in the long hours and individual attention he provides to his classes and students. Thank you, John, for your dedication to the program and congratulations on your achievements.



Laura Wolters will be graduating this May with a 3.5 GPA and will receive her B.S. degree in telecommunications systems management with specialty options in business applications and e-commerce. Laura came to Murray State after graduating from Red Bud High School, Red Bud, Ill., in 1998. During her studies at Murray State, she

received the Communications Technology Award in 1999, the TSM I&T Award 1999-2002, Recognition Award 1998-2002, and served as an IET ambassador in 2001-2002. She completed her internship with CSG Systems in Omaha, Neb., as a systems analyst. Laura plans to pursue a career in information technology consulting. We wish Laura continued success in her career endeavors.



