

# Network problems frustrate campus

by Ben Goff  
News Editor

Slow internet service, network drive outages (including O drives), and email difficulties continue to be a source of frustration on campus. The frustrations are becoming an obstacle to everyone from students all the way up to Vice President John Hardt.

The general sentiment last Wed. morning when the network went down at approximately 10:20am was that of frustration. This was the second such outage of the week and disrupted students who were preparing important papers and faculty who were giving lectures. At this time of the year when many people have assignments to complete the network problems have reached a new high.

All faculty and students acknowledge that the recent computing problems have never been experienced before. Professor Janie Sue Brooks Stated that "This fall for the first time IT problems have negatively impacted my ability to do my job."

While several faculty expressed frustration with the slow internet while trying to conduct research through the online databases, Brooks doesn't "Mind the speed so much, but it needs to be reliable."

For Information Technology professor Alyse Hollingsworth the slow downs and outages have made it difficult for students in IT classes to complete their work in class, and for many professors who use power point or other computer re-

source in class the outages have disrupted lectures.

Students and faculty are instructed to use their O drive space for document storage instead of saving files to computers, and are instructed to use their campus email to communicate with professors. Many students and faculty expressed displeasure at being instructed to rely on a network that is not reliable.

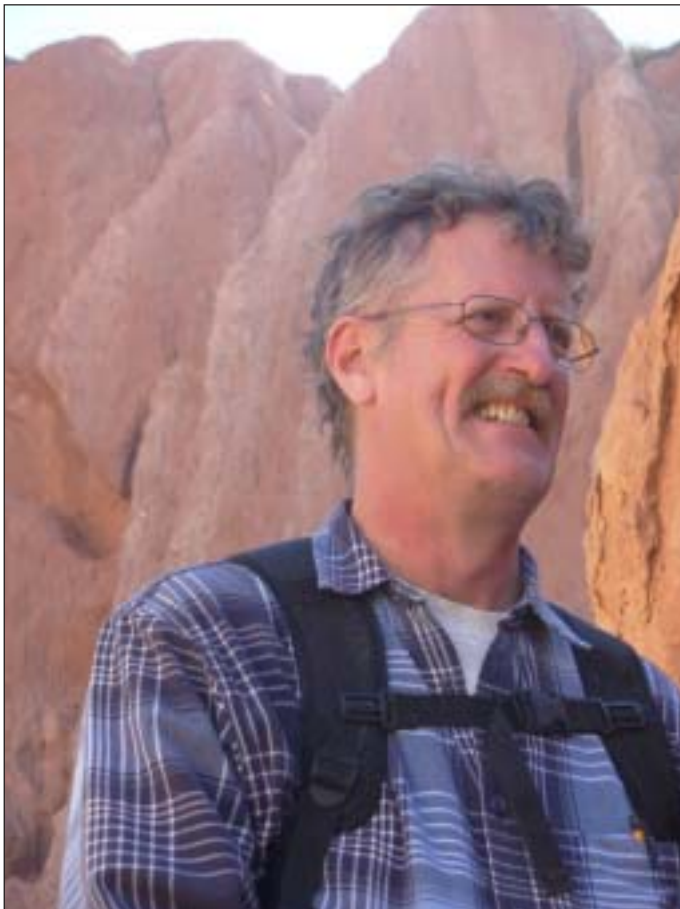
Brooks also raised concerns about a new mass email policy that will likely be put into effect soon. "There are some faculty that will be very unhappy if restrictions are placed on the ability to email students."

Brooks also expressed frustration at sometimes not being able to access web mail from home, which is compounded by the fact that it has become

necessary for her to work from home at times because the computer in her office is not able to handle the demands of software she uses to do research.

According to Brooks "Our IT department is wonderful. Our network is not." Similarly, Hollingsworth stated that "This is a difficult time of the year for things to go wrong, but...I think IT is doing all that they can" and that we should all "Strive to be patient..." as IT addresses the technology problems.

The opinions of students were similar, with many expressing their frustration. One student stated that "For \$26 thousand a year they need to get some decent computers in here," or at least fix what we have.



Professor Jim Reynolds

## Geology professor continues research in Patagonia

by Ben Goff  
News Editor

Associate Professor of Geology Jim Reynolds, better known as JR, is entering the second half of his year-long sabbatical to conduct research in South America.

Reynolds, who has conducted research in South America for many years, received a Fulbright Scholarship to travel through South America studying the uplift of the Andes mountain range and other features.

Reynolds began his travels on August 16, first traveling to Salt, Argentina, where he remained for the better part of this semester. This month Reynolds travels to Patagonia where he will complete the second half of his research.

As he wrote on his blog at the start of his trip, "This is my 26th trip to Argentina. I travel here as a geologist studying the uplift of the Andes."

For more information on Reynolds's travels, visit his blog at [http://www.travelpod.com/travel-blog/magellanic/argentina\\_2007/tpod.html](http://www.travelpod.com/travel-blog/magellanic/argentina_2007/tpod.html)