

SUMMERTIME! Classroom Renovations & Improvements

Finals are well underway, Graduation is just around the corner, and Summer Sessions will soon begin. But you already knew this! What you want to know is how ITG plans to make your classrooms even better for the fall semester. As usual, we have quite a few projects lined up!

Renovations

A large classroom project is underway in Hamilton Hall. Rooms 102 & 104 will be completely renovated this summer and returned to service this fall. The two new rooms will be just like 110 & 112 across the hall. The construction will include new walls, flooring, furnishings & multimedia systems. Facilities Management will oversee the construction and work closely with ITG personnel installing the multimedia equipment in the classrooms. This badly needed upgrade will provide a better environment for classroom instruction to over 330 students each class period.

The Ross Van Brunt building has two large capacity rooms that serve as lecture halls by day and theatres by night. If you have ever had a class in one of these rooms, you know that the transition between classroom & theatre is not always a smooth one. The classroom shares many of the components with the theatre (i.e. projector, audio system & control system), and sometimes the "switch" doesn't get flipped. This summer, ITG will work with the Ross to separate the systems, and upgrade the touch panel to our standard layout. This will primarily be a "behind the scenes" change, that will be virtually un-seen by the user. The separation will make the rooms much more reliable and easier to use.

Improvements

Improvements will be made to Avery 115 this summer. ITG has been evaluating the poor image quality in this room for quite some time. There are several issues that have made it difficult to provide the best possible projector image. Consequently, there are quite a few options to explore when trying to correct the problem. With very few classes scheduled for this room this summer, we will be taking a hard look at all of our options. By early summer, we plan to have a working solution that will greatly improve the image quality on the projectors.

Many of our classrooms have computers remotely located in closets for increased security. These computers are equipped with USB extenders that allow instructors to use USB storage devices in the classrooms. We have discovered that some kinds of USB devices are not working well with these USB extenders. While we maintain that our File Server is one of the most reliable ways to bring up your files in the classrooms, we also see the need for portable file storage. This summer we will be evaluating these classrooms and, where feasible, moving the computers into the classrooms.

Small General Purpose classrooms in Henzlik & Mable Lee will soon have DVD players! These small classrooms have few amenities, just TVs & VCRs and overhead projectors, but this summer, ITG will be installing a taste of the 21st century. The rooms will be outfitted with DVD/VCR combo players allowing users to show both VHS tapes and DVDs.

Active Directory Policies

Our implementation of [Active Directory logins](#) in the classrooms went rather well this past semester. We hope that you have enjoyed the added security and benefits that Active Directory provides. If you have not done so, please go to <http://adactivation.unl.edu/> to activate your account. If you don't know your username, please call our support staff. Everyone using the classroom computers will need their own unique account. Only guest lecturers will be provided temporary accounts. More information on acquiring a guest account for your department will soon be provided on our website.

All of us at ITG have enjoyed working with you kind folks this past school year. Have a great summer!

Sincerely,

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