New Parent and Emergency Contact Information System Launches

ON JUNE 20, an IS project team launched a new system that revolutionizes the collection and distribution of parent and emergency contact information from students at Connecticut College. Previously, students had been asked for this information from different departments in various forms, but the data was not sharable between offices or systems. The disconnect was frustrating for students and parents. It meant that if a student notified one department of a new cell phone number or email address, there was no guarantee that another department would receive that update.

The College recognized that it was absolutely essential to ensure that current and accurate parent and emergency contact information from students would be available to authorized personnel in the event of an emergency. Employees in numerous situations, such as a Student Life staff member who goes to the hospital in support of a student, need to have accurate emergency contact information at their fingertips.

With that in mind, the PECI Project Team was asked to deliver a method to:
- Collect the information from students;
- Allow students and authorized staff members to edit that information; and
- Circulate changes automatically to all systems that require it.

New students are now required to fill out the “My Contact Info” form as they create their conncoll account. Once they have entered their contacts, they can then get into email, CamelWeb or Moodle. For current students, the form will pop up for them twice a year so that they can review and update their information. The “My Contact Info” form is also available to all students at any time in CamelWeb. Authorized staff from Student Life can easily access the mobile-friendly contact information for any given student using a phone, tablet or computer. — Laurie Schaeffer

Eduroam Enables Broadened Access to Wi-Fi

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE’S faculty, staff and students can now access the internet not only at our home campus but also at thousands of other campuses worldwide. The widened access is enabled by Eduroam, a secure Wi-Fi roaming service that allows members of the Connecticut College community to visit any participating institution worldwide and obtain an internet connection.

Eduroam also enables visiting faculty, researchers and students from other participating schools to connect at Connecticut College without having to go through wireless guest registration. To connect, users need only find the “eduroam” network on a computer or mobile device, and then enter their credentials, including their full email address and password (the same password one uses to access CamelWeb and other Connecticut College systems). Alumni, too, can connect to the wireless network using their “@alumni.conn coll.edu” email address.

Eduroam was officially adopted on Aug. 1, but testing had taken place throughout the past summer. The Enterprise & Technical Systems Team chose Eduroam because it was found to simplify wireless troubleshooting, improve security and performance, and reduce complexity. Eduroam offers the further advantage of simultaneously enhancing Connecticut College’s collaboration with fellow colleges and universities.

Eduroam has 469 participating institutions in the United States; globally, it is available in about 17,000 locations in more than 70 countries worldwide. To check for participating campuses in the United States, visit https://www.eduroam.us/institutions_list. Additionally, one might also see it pop up on a mobile device or computer as an available network at a given institution. — Steven Mailloux