Hampton University Integrating Campus-Wide Network Project to Improve Infrastructure and Bring Technology Upgrades to Campus

Hampton University is getting an essential network upgrade with several phases that will be implemented over the next year, and some that began in October 2019. Hampton’s business management processing software system is being upgraded, as well as the Windows platform for all the computers on campus. All these upgrades will better support the students, faculty, administration and staff on campus, and position Hampton for future innovation challenges.

“The Hampton University Center for Information Technology has taken on the task of improving campus technology with energy and passion. With Dr. Alissa Harrison’s leadership, we will continue to explore new technological innovations that will benefit the entire campus community. At Hampton, we Dream no Small Dreams,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

Network Infrastructure Upgrade

For the network upgrade, the Hampton University Center for Information Technology (CIT) planned to divide the project into phases. First, the entire core networking hardware had to be updated and replaced. Then, the campus internet phase divided the circuit and upgraded it into two (2) 10 Gbps circuits with dedicated networks for residents and a separate one for administrative and academic buildings. Next, the CIT will test the circuits in all residence halls, administration and academic buildings. The entire network upgrade is expected to be in place by August 2020. This update will provide necessary digital capabilities that will allow the University to take advantage of partnering, research grants, proposals, and much more.

Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System Update

The Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system (business management processing software system) that Hampton University utilizes is being updated from the Banner 8 version to Banner 9 Essentials. To accomplish this, the CIT’s Computer Center team provided information and user training sessions for all staff who use the system. They also recommended and offered training and were available for questions. Once the system is upgraded to Banner 9, the CIT will work with the user community to test every department’s Core modules (e.g., Financial, Human Resources, Financial Aid, etc.). Upon completion of the user testing phase, the live version will be available to all users. The purpose of this upgrade is to enable Hampton University to access self-service options and allow users access to features they need any time and from any device.

Windows Upgrade

Hampton University’s mixed operating system environment includes using Windows® 7 for several years. The CIT mandated the needed campus-wide update to Windows® 10 to align with Microsoft’s January 14, 2020 end of service. While the update started during the latter part of 2019, the CIT anticipates completing the effort before the end of the current semester. “We began to upgrade the first computers, and the results are successful. During the next couple of months, we will contact several users every day to make sure we can back up their data and perform the upgrades on their systems. After this upgrade, our computer systems will have better performance as well as improved security,” said Mr. Larry Ingram, IT Analyst/Help Desk Coordinator for the CIT/ATM. The purpose of this upgrade is to provide a safer and more efficient operating system for users.

The Assistant Vice President for Information Technology, Dr. Alissa Harrison, is the driver behind these three essential updates. When she came to work at Hampton in 2019, she saw the need for transformation and took the lead to accomplish just that. “The Center for Information Technology (CIT) embarked on a journey to realign our organizational structure and align our services to better support our students, faculty, administrators, and staff,” Dr. Harrison said. “In support of President Harvey’s vision, we see a Hampton where technology integrates seamlessly with research, academics, and administrative environments and elevates productivity and innovation.”

Hampton University’s Center for Information Technology is not going to stop there. They want to make Hampton an Authorized PearsonVUE Testing Center and will be working with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to use the new upgraded infrastructure and support the Hampton community. “I am really looking forward to 2020,” said Dr. Harrison.

The outcome of the infrastructure and network upgrade will surely elevate the Hampton students’ technological experience, both in the classroom and their residence halls. Students already see the changes. “Although there are still a lot of improvements that need to be made to the overall quality of Wi-Fi on campus, I am glad to see that we are taking steps in the right direction to improve Wi-Fi access for students. Personally, I have definitely noticed better Wi-Fi quality, and I look forward to seeing more improvements coming soon,” said Austin Sams, junior, political science major, and Executive Assistant in the Student Government Association.

(continued on page 2)
“When I started to campaign for Virginia Beach, they had only ever had four African Americans ever elected, but when I said, ‘Okay listen, I want to run for office.’ They said, ‘You want to run for office, you need to get on a couple of boards, a couple of commissions, then in about 5 or 6 years, you can run for office.’ I said, ‘What? No way!’ They didn’t see how for three years, I traveled from Hampton Roads to Richmond, learning, networking, and not taking no for an answer.”

On November 6, 2018, Rouse was elected to Council as an at large member. Rouse is a strong advocate for the support of first responders and the military along with their families. He is passionate about the potential growth of Virginia Beach into a strong economic, travel and entertainment location with support to residents and tourists. Rouse is a member of North End Run Club. He serves as the City Council liaison to the Minority Business Council and the Transportation District Commission of Hampton Roads (HRT).

“Councilmember Rouse provided the Leadership Fellows vignetted on resilience that will stay with them and undoubtedly they will share with their peers. He continued to stress the importance of his faith, and how everything was falling around him, after the car accident. His so called friends stopped calling, because he was no longer in the NFL, but he maintained his faith, and never wavered throughout all of his trials and tribulations. He is a role model and outstanding citizen, who is only scratching the surface in his political career and I expect him to leave a legacy as a public servant and leader for the betterment of the Commonwealth of Virginia,” said Dr. Jarris Louis Taylor, Jr., Director, William R. Harvey Leadership Institute.

Councilmember Rouse also gave the Harvey Fellows some good advice about being a leader. “My mother and grandfather always taught me to speak up for yourself. Be bold. Be a leader. Because you don’t know who you can rely on,” Rouse said. “When you come face to face with responsibility and decisions, then you’ll know how to go forward. If you are constantly dodging accountability, then you’ll be running for the rest of your life.”

Jamil Gambari, Hampton University’s Mr. Pirate, has been Named an EBONY HBCU Campus King

Hampton University student Jamil Gambari has just been named an EBONY HBCU Campus King. Gambari is a senior, marketing major from New York. He is one of ten winning Kings who will be featured in the pages of EBONY magazine and at EBONY.com. Part of the EBONY HBCU Campus Queens franchise, this is the second class of EBONY Campus Kings. Gambari is the first Mr. Pirate to receive this honor. These young men demonstrate the ability to inspire, lead and give back to their communities.

“Mr. Jamil Gambari epitomizes everything that makes Hampton University THE Standard of Excellence. Congratulations to Mr. Gambari for his recognition, and for displaying great character in all that he does,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

As Mr. Pirate, Gambari implemented his platform called 3D (Driven, Diverse and Dynamic). “My platform highlights the multidimensional aspects that African Americans possess through proper knowledge of our history and confidence building. Too many times, we limit the multitude of talents we were gifted with, and I feel this would be an amazing opportunity to highlight what we could achieve as we remove the barriers we impose on ourselves,” Gambari said.

During his college career, Gambari has maintained a 4.0 cumulative GPA, and was recognized as a Hampton Renaissance Scholar, representing the top 5% of his class academically. He served as Mr. American Marketing Association, a James T. Harvey Student Ambassador, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. nationally this past July in Las Vegas, NV.

For his future career, Gambari plans to be a business owner and successful real estate broker. “Overall, I want to promote change and economic growth in low-income communities,” Gambari said.

Hampton University Welcomes Dr. Valora Richardson as the Director of Hampton U Online

Hampton University is excited to announce the hire of Valora Richardson, Ph.D. as the Director of Hampton University Online (Hampton U Online). Dr. Richardson came to Hampton from Georgia State University where she worked as the assistant director of Technology Enhanced Teaching and Learning.

“We are elated to welcome Dr. Valora Richardson as the Director of Hampton U Online. Dr. Richardson’s exceptional technical knowledge and her ability to understand the needs of today’s online student will advance our already prestigious online program to the next level,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

Dr. Richardson has a long work history and plans to use her experience to increase the entirety of Hampton U Online. “I have over 20 years of experience in the online industry. I started my career at Georgia Tech as a computer service specialist. That was the first job I took after college. During my time at Georgia Tech, I developed a love for helping facilities, especially teachers, learn how to use the web. Then, I went on to Southern Polytechnic State University and earned my master’s degree in Technical Communication, similar to technical writing,” said Dr. Richardson. She also worked for DeKalb County Schools, Georgia Perimeter College and most recently, Georgia State University.

Hampton University Online expands the reach of the University’s stellar undergraduate, graduate, certificate and professional development programs to serve the needs of a diverse community of learners who would otherwise be unable to access a high quality Hampton University education in any other manner. Hampton U Online combines top-notch instruction with nurturing learner support services to ensure academic success and personal achievement.

“I have lived in Atlanta my whole life. My whole family, my whole heart and everything is in Atlanta, so to pick up and move would be a big step, but I felt this was the right time. Dr. Harvey and his gigantic vision for HU Online is a big task, but my career has been based at predominantly white institutions. After doing a campus tour, speaking with Dr. Harvey, and meeting people who say they loved Hampton University, I know this was the place and this was the time to do it,” Dr. Richardson said.

Dr. Richardson earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Georgia State University; she holds a Master of Science degree in Technical Communication from Southern Polytechnic State University; and a Ph.D. in Instructional Technology from Georgia State University. Her technology skills include social media, Learning Management System Administration and Support, Classroom Technology and Creative Suite 6.

Fun Facts about Dr. Richardson:

She has played all of the instruments in the string orchestra, except for the viola.

She has played the violin, cello and the string bass.

Living around all of this water, she plans to learn how to swim.
Hampton University Museum Welcomes New Curator, Mr. Kenlontae’ Turner

The Hampton University Museum is proud to welcome Mr. Kenlontae’ Turner as the new Curator of Collections. Mr. Turner, a native of Newport News, Va., comes to Hampton University after recently working at the Freer Gallery of Art & Arthur M. Sackler Gallery in Washington, D.C.

“Hampton University is excited to welcome Mr. Kenlontae’ Turner to the Hampton University Museum. His passion for African American and Native American art will be an asset to our museum, which houses one of the largest private collections of African American and Native American art in the world,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

Mr. Turner has always been a lover of art. He majored in studio art at Christopher Newport University with a double minor in museum studies and art history. From there, he worked at an art gallery in Williamsburg and then went on to graduate school at Georgetown University and majored in art and museum studies. While in Washington D.C., Mr. Turner interned at Smithsonian museums, such as the Freer/Sackler Gallery, National Museum of the American Indian and the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. Mr. Turner also interned several times over various summers at the Hampton University Museum.

“I’ve loved art ever since I was little. I think particularly with museums, I love the way that art can be used as a source of inspiration and education. That’s why I got inspired to be part of museums. I think they’re far more accessible to people, as most museums are open to the public. By educating and inspiring others, places like the Hampton University Museum can create a potential dialogue and a truly meaningful experience for the audience,” Turner said.

Hampton University Alumna, Chental Song Bembry, Tackles Bullying through New Novel, ‘Desiree Davenport’

Author, motivational speaker and Hampton University alumna Chental Song Bembry (c/o 2018) is continuing her legacy of children’s literature. Since making her debut on the 2015 BET Honors and Black Girls Rock! awards shows as an Early Riser and a Making a Difference Girl, she has published a new middle-grade novel called “Desiree Davenport: Welcome to Treeless Park,” available now on Amazon.

Bembry is a literacy advocate who graduated Summa Cum Laude from Hampton with a bachelor’s degree in Journalism and a minor in Leadership Studies.

“We are incredibly proud of Ms. Chental Song Bembry. She continues to shine and is a perfect example of a Hamptonian letting her life do the singing,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

“Desiree Davenport,” Bembry’s first comprehensive middle grade novel, tackles bullying using youth football and cheerleading. The story focuses on a 12-year-old girl named Desiree, who moves to a new city with her mom after her parents get divorced. As a youth cheerleader, Desiree befriends fraternal twin brothers Rashad and Phil du Bois, the stars of the football team, who welcome her into their large family. Desiree feels content in having regained a sense of family since her parents’ divorce, but she becomes conflicted upon discovering that the twins are bullies. Relying on her love of mystery books, Desiree sets out to uncover why the twins bully their football teammate, Chauncy Willis. “Desiree Davenport: Welcome to Treeless Park” targets boys and girls ages eight to 14 and is available now on Amazon for $9.99.

Bembry said she wrote “Desiree Davenport” to provide readers with an alternative to mainstream books, which often push negative topics on African-American middle-grade children. These topics, Bembry said, include drugs, prison, police brutality, racism, and self-hatred.

“I wrote ‘Desiree Davenport’ because I wanted to write a normal story about a group of kids who explore how they treat and interact with each other in and outside of school,” Bembry said. “I wanted to tell a story that highlights the very best of people in a community who care about each other; a story that allows children to see a positive representation of themselves, their families, and their friends in each of my characters.”

In addition, Bembry said she wrote “Desiree Davenport” to combat bullying in a “fresh way.” As opposed to anti-bullying novels that focus mostly on the person being bullied, Bembry’s novel explores bullying by focusing more on the bullies themselves.

“I believe that the answer to anti-bullying starts with the bully,” Bembry said. “If we take the time to analyze exactly why the bully behaves the way he or she does, then we will find the source of the problem and end it much quicker. This is what I hope my novel shows readers.”

Bembry’s contributions to literacy have been recognized by Black Enterprise, Ebony Magazine, Essence Magazine, ESPN’s The Undeclared, Buzzfeed, USA Today, The Ringer, The Cheat Sheet TV, the National Urban League, and Black Entertainment Television. In 2015, she was recognized at the BET Honors as an “Early Riser” and at the Black Girls Rock! awards show, where the former FLOTUS, Michelle Obama, declared her a “Making a Difference Girl.” In May 2018, Chental was featured in LeBron James’ Always Believe campaign during the NBA Playoffs.

“I am very thankful to the professors and staff at Hampton University for their support and encouragement of my projects. Hampton has supported me since my freshman year,” Bembry said. “Because of the Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications, I’ve had many opportunities to work at top media companies. As a graduating fellow of the William R. Harvey Leadership Institute, I learned that when faced with rejection, it’s up to me to find the courage to stand up for what I believe in. In addition, I’ve learned how I can use my talents to impact the lives of children and change the way they see themselves in literature. I am extremely grateful to be an alumna of such a prestigious institution. It will always be my ‘Home by the Sea.’”

“It was a pleasure to get to know Ms. Chental Song Bembry during her time in Leadership Institute. She worked at ABC 2 News in Baltimore, my hometown, and that was the catalyst for numerous conversations about life and future career plans after Hampton University. I recall her telling me about ‘The Honey Bunch Kids,’ and the various series and mediums she was planning to create and informed her about a friend of mine who was also publishing a children’s book based on her two dogs. I am not surprised that Ms. Bembry completed one of her goals as her favorite quote is from Louis Pasteur, ‘chance favors the prepared mind,’ and she was always a believer and practiced the third principle of the Harvey Leadership Model - Academic Excellence,” said Dr. Jarris Louis Taylor, Jr., Director of the William R. Harvey Leadership Institute.

In her spare time, Bembry continues writing,
Hampton University Student Ka’ena Farmer Shares her Experience Interning at the Super Bowl and NFL Scouting Combine

Ka’ena “Sissy” Farmer, Hampton University 5-year MBA student, recently interned at the Super Bowl and attended the Women's Careers in Football Forum during the NFL Scouting Combine in Indianapolis, IN. She also spent last summer interning for the National Football League (NFL).

“Congratulations to Ms. Ka’ena Farmer for continuing to illustrate THE Standard of Excellence that our students exude on a daily basis in front of NFL officials. We know that Ms. Farmer was a great ambassador for her ‘Home by the Sea’ at this unique learning experience offered by the National Football Leagues in their efforts to diversify their future leadership workforce,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

During her internship at the Super Bowl, Farmer was part of the Football Operations team, specifically for the youth football department. “It was a great experience. I was able to help put on different camps for kids. Since girls flag football is a sport in Florida, Nike gave them uniforms and we were able to help put on different camps for kids. But it was great experience. I was able to help put on different camps for kids.”

Farmer also got the chance to attend the 3rd annual Women's Careers in Football Forum prior to the 2019 NFL Scouting Combine in Indianapolis. Forty female participants currently working in college football connected with executives and industry experts representing the NFL, NCAA, Canadian Football League, and Women's Leaders in College Sports. Farmer was the only HBCU student in attendance.

“This experience was really exciting. I got to meet team owners, head coaches and hear from amazing women in sports like Callie Brownson, the first full-time female coach and now Chief of Staff for the Cleveland Browns; Salli Clavelle, the first woman to coach in the Super Bowl with the San Francisco 49ers; and Jennifer King, the first African American female coach in the NFL,” Farmer said. “The forum allowed us to be part of the combine experience, where we got to meet coaches and general managers. It gives women a foot in the door because if there are teams looking to integrate women on their staff, the forum is a great place to look.”

Farmer is a 5-year MBA student and will graduate in 2020 with her bachelor's degree and then with her master's degree in 2021. She has two goals for her future career. “I'd like to work at a league office in Football Operations for the NFL and work on initiatives like HBCUs and social justice initiatives. Secondly, I'd like to work on the club side of things and work with salary cap and eventually become a general manager,” Farmer said.

Hampton University Assistant Women’s Basketball Coach Named to 2020 WBCA Thirty Under 30 List

Hampton University women's basketball assistant coach Kenia Cole was named as an honoree on the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) Thirty Under 30 presented by Marriott Bonvoy and Morgan Stanley Global Sports & Entertainment for the 2019-20 season. This is the second year she was recognized on this list by the WBCA.

“Congratulations to Ms. Cole for this award that recognizes her work in developing future leaders through athletics. Our world-class alumni continue to break barriers, make their mark in this world and represent their ‘Home by the Sea,’” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

The WBCA Thirty Under 30 program was created to recognize 30 up-and-coming women's basketball coaches age 30 and under at all levels of the game. Each honoree has exemplified their involvement in community service, mentorship and impact on others, professional manner, and attitude and professional association involvement.

“It's a blessing and quite the honor to be named to the 2020 WBCA Thirty Under 30 class,” said Cole. “I hope to keep growing our game through service, leadership, and mentorship for all future women's basketball players to come.”

Cole just finished her first year at her alma mater under her college coach David Six. She was a four-time Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) regular season champion, three-time MEAC tournament champion and was named the most improved player as a junior. She totaled over 245 assists in her career and ranked in the program’s top-10 for made three-pointers.

In addition to her success on the court, she was on the Dean's List all four years of her career and earned a bachelor's of science in sports management in May of 2016. Cole completed her master’s of professional studies in sports industry management at Georgetown University in May 2017. Hampton finished the season 18-11 and was second in the Big South with a 14-6 record.

“The WBCA is pleased to recognize up-and-coming talent in our coaching family. The 30 coaches who have been named to receive the Thirty Under 30 Award are deserving of this recognition. The WBCA congratulates them for distinguishing themselves early in their careers,” said WBCA Executive Director Danielle Donehew. “These coaches have demonstrated eagerness, effectiveness, loyalty, love of the game, and a commitment to the student-athlete. We celebrate their effort on the basketball court as teachers and equally applaud the extensive role they play in impacting the lives of their student-athletes.”

“Marriott is committed to supporting the career growth of women and we are honored to help recognize these 30 dynamic coaches,” said Kieran Donahue, vice president, brand, marketing and digital, Marriott International, Americas. “In our fourth year as the Official Hotel Partner of NCAA, we are proud to celebrate these extraordinary women who are under 30 and are already leaders in basketball, mentorship, and community service.”

“We are proud to be a part of this year’s WBCA Thirty Under 30 and recognize the future leaders and superstar coaches in women's basketball,” said Sandra Richards, managing director of Morgan Stanley and head of global sports & entertainment and segment sales & engagement.