Blackboard upgrade brings new features online

By Scott Pachilis
Assistant Editor

Students and faculty campus wide are adjusting to the new version of Blackboard.

Many have found it to be much easier every day. "If we could do the upgrade to the new version of Blackboard before the start of school, it would have made the transition easier every day."

Scott Orr, associate professor of management and information technology said, "I have yet to really get adjusted to it, but it gets easier every day."

Due to the Blackboard 7.3 to Blackboard 9.1 transition, DoIT decided that "no additional funding was appropriated to the Division of Information Technology (DoIT) to upgrade from Blackboard 7.3 to Blackboard 9.1. However, given the bad cuts faced across the campus, DoIT decided to discuss the costs of the outsourced Blackboard 24/7 Helpdesk in favor of providing support to students, faculty and staff from the existing DoIT Helpdesk."

Upon doing so, DoIT expanded the hours from Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to include Sunday hours from midnight and Monday to Thursday 3 p.m. to midnight. "If we hope this move will eventually be more cost efficient than outsourcing, our primary focus was on improving Helpdesk services for faculty and students." the DoIT staff said.

Every course available to students is now automatically blocked with Blackboard, and instructors now have the option of using it or not.

"Blackboard's "Digital Drop Box" feature is included by the Assignment Tool. Blackboard also provides in private Blog and Journal tools that let students create and share with their peers or their instructors or other students enrolled in a particular class," the DoIT staff said.

University warns against illegal downloads

By Scott Pachilis
Assistant Editor

The University warns against illegal downloads of copyrighted material.

"If we could block the downloading of p2p on campus, UNCP has to go to court, have the privilege to log on to Blackboard, multiple options are available to introduce to the upgraded version, as well as specific sessions on the Grade Center and Blogs, Journals, and Wikis. Blackboard training for students is normally accomplished by special request by an instructor through the DoIT Helpdesk."

"This was a major upgrade taking UNCP from Blackboard version 7.3 to Blackboard version 9.1. Therefore, we do not anticipate any other major changes this school year or in the near future other than possibly adding various course enhancing plug-ins known as "Building Blocks," the DoIT staff said.

Campus police break up multiple large parties

By Scott Pachilis
Assistant Editor

According to the University Crime Report, on Sept. 2, officers responded and charged a total of 14 students for underage drinking near Village Apartments.

On the night of Pem-broke’s win over Fayetteville State, there was a semester high of four separate parties officers broke up. Between 9 p.m. and 3 a.m., there was one party at Village, one that was off campus, and two parties in the Courtyard Apartments that occurred at different times. Officers dis-persed each one without any arrest.

Within five days, two separate brush fires were re-ported on campus. On the evening of Sept. 3, the match on Lot 10 was on fire. Then on the morning of Sept. 7 the fire was reported around the Library. On both occasions, officers re-sponded and got extinguishing the fires.

Joining the two incidents, on Sept. 7, a person cut the hose to the Student Health Services center. The night of Sept.13 a caller advised that a senate- mate in the Village Apartments was experiencing a car fire. When officers responded, spoke to the su-perintendant of the Student to the Health Student Services center.

Freshmen senators elected to SGA

By Skylar Jones
Staff Writer

Candidates for senator from August to September: Voting was limited to Sept. 2-Sept 6 on the organization’s Facebook page.

Candidates for freshmen senators from August to September: Voting was limited to Sept. 2-Sept 6 on the organization’s Facebook page.

The Senate is currently discussing what to call the new residence hall. The President of SGA, Arjay Quizon, is taking con-siderations of fellow students about any type of problems or concerns dealing with campus life. These concerns are discussed by the senate and are considered by the SGA members.