

Walsh offers course in advanced information security

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

Walsh College is offering students a master's degree with a specialty in business information technology that focuses on securing information.

In wake of Sept. 11, 2001, security has taken on a new level of importance for the government and private business, said John Young, vice president of external relations at Walsh, which is located on the border between Novi and Farmington Hills.

This semester, Don Gottwald, director of the Master of Science in Business Information Technology, is overseeing new advanced courses in information systems security using real world standards in the classroom.

The new advanced classes include building an information protection program; information security safeguards; information security threat assessment; and cryptography.

While the main class of Information Systems Security is offered at the Novi campus, the advanced classes are being held at the college's Troy campus. Based on student inter-

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Don Gottwald

est, the advanced classes should be offered at the Novi campus next fall, said Young. Walsh Instructor Jeff Recor, an information security specialist, initially investigated the need for the course through his business contacts, said Gottwald.

"It seemed to be a hot topic for a new potential market. Through Jeff's contacts, he found out businesses are looking for information security professionals," said Gottwald.

"We found there is a shortage of people with these skills," he said.

It's not so much knowing the latest software and hardware in computers, the director said, it's setting guidelines in an office area that keeps information from leaking out. Even for businesses not involved in military contracts, there is a need to keep company secrets and contracts from

reaching competitors and for employees' personal information to stay inside the company.

"Most people don't pay attention to the levels of security," Gottwald said of why security measures tend to fail.

"They leave back doors open. We go about a comprehensive policy that gives you the information to use to enforce those procedures and monitor what's coming in - is it legitimate or is it being used by hackers?"

It comes down to people, he said.

"You have to have enforcement of the policy, that's key," he said.

Classes in the program started this past week.

The director said officials should know soon whether the program meets government certification. Young said the advanced



John Young, Vice President of External Affairs for Walsh College in Novi, stands next to an international router, part of the new computer security class offered.

courses are a way to keep the business information program fresh and current with today's business climate.

"This is a major enhancement to the business degree and staying in the market," Young said.

Gottwald said a lot of students have told him they specialty is exactly what they were looking for.

"It's the IT (information technology) of the future," he said.

"IT will survive in redefined

forms, information support will go to the business users," he said and not so much people trained in using computers.

"We'll see more of the business people doing this," pace@cehome.com.net | (248) 477-5450

New Players Barn to open in January

BY JOHN HUBRED
STAFF WRITER

Dave Gilkes knows what women want.

The Farmington Players member headed up a group tour of the newly constructed Players Barn last Sunday and hit the highlights first.

"How many of you ladies have had to wait in line for the bathroom?" he asked, watching as hands shot up. "You're not going to have to wait in line any more."

The expanded restrooms in the spacious lobby only scratch the surface of the improvements in the new building. The old barn, razed late last year, suffered problems with heating and ventilation and inadequate space. Standing in what will be the wings on stage, Gilkes explained in the old barn, actors had to stand shoulder to shoulder just off stage and wait for their cues. Now there's plenty of room to maneuver.

There'll be a new "rigging" system, too, a bar of spotlights that can be raised or lowered from the ground.

"In the old theater, we had to have a guy who'd get up on a ladder," Gilkes said.

The old theater didn't have trap doors, either.

"We can vanish a guy and bring him back up over there," Gilkes said, pointing from one end of the stage to the other.

Because of a lack of space, set builders in the old barn had to work right on stage. Now a high-ceilinged room behind the stage is designated for that purpose - a room with doors so wide and tall, a car could be driven through them.

The new barn has some small amenities that might not seem like much to some, but mean the world to the Players. For instance, the stage-building room has a separate sink that can be used for cleaning paint brushes.

"Honest to God, it's a joy to have," Gilkes said with a broad smile.

The control room in the old barn was one, small cubicle where two people would work the lights and sound. Now each has a separate space to look out over the theater onto the stage.

The new auditorium seats are expected in November; all seating is closer to the stage and is arranged stadium-style, so people won't have to crane their necks to see around the person in front of them.

"I'm so impressed," said longtime neighbor and theater-goer Cathy Chapman. "There's not a bad seat in the place. The actors have room to manipulate and the lighting is well done."

The Players have four performances this season, two at their temporary home in Barnes & Noble bookstore, 6800 Orchard Lake in West Bloomfield and two - "fingers crossed" - will be in the new facility.

There are a few details left to wrap up, however, including an additional \$210,000 to be raised for the cost of landscaping, parking installation and the rest of the staging equipment. Phil Hadley, new barn

project manager, said there will be fund-raisers to help defray those costs.

"We're focusing on what we do best, which is shows in between those already scheduled," he said.

The Allison family of Farmington Hills didn't agree more about what the Players do best. They remember the old barn well.

"Each seat was not identical. They were donated from various theaters," said Suzanne Allison. "That place was so old."

Her husband, Robert, said he's pleased the Players have kept up the local playhouse. The family has been coming to the barn for years, including Harrison High senior Henther, who would like to get involved in theater.

"I always thought it would be helpful," she said, adding she plans to study for a career with the Central Intelligence Agency.

Sunday's open house was attended by more than 500 people, including season ticket holders who were invited for a special preview of the new barn. The Players expect it will be completed and ready for performances by January.

The new barn is located at 32332 W. 12 Mile Road in Farmington Hills, between Orchard Lake and Farmington Roads on 12 Mile. For information about upcoming shows or to make telephone reservations, call (248) 219-0800. Visit the Players on-line by going to www.farmingtonplayers.org

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INKWELL

■ Mercy Merit Scholars

Mercy High School students Karen Kudelko, Erin McCann and Tecla Sweeney have been named Commended Students in the 2003 National Merit Scholarship Program.

An NMSC spokesperson commented, "The young men and women named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for future academic success by their high performance in the extremely competitive National Merit Scholarship Program."

■ National Semifinalists

Mercy students, Jenna Bernas, Erin Biebuyck, Monica Boomer, Ellen Cappel, Emily Gruber, Megan Messana, Francine Shammani and Caryn Smith were selected by officials of National Merit Scholarship Corporation as semifinalists in the 2003 Merit Scholarship Competition. Of the 1.3 million high school juniors who entered the competition, only 16,000 were chosen as semifinalists.

■ Mercy Advanced Scholars

The following Mercy High School students have been recognized by the College Board

for their exceptional achievement on the college-level Advanced Placement Exams: Sarah Broniak, Sailaja Paldipaty, Christina Murdock, Beth Rutkowski, Zainab Borwala, Laura Broesamie, Kristin Channell, Anna Dobocz, Lauren Doetsch, Karen Kudelko, Shelby Ludke, Lisa Ludwinski, Courtney Meyer, Emily Moy, Suzanne Valade and Kimberly Varynice.

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