Building Web Resources: A Workshop

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Council of Graduate Schools Annual Meeting
December 2, 2009
San Francisco, CA

Session overview

- Framing and context
- Life cycle of graduate student
  - Identification/recruitment, application, & admission
  - Enrollment, orientations, academic progress, degree completion/ETD, student services and resources for faculty and students
  - Commencement, alumni connection and giving back
- Social networking and communication
- Administrative functionality and efficiencies
- Ground rules: brief presentations, discussion, Q&A, sharing, and more

Topics and choices

- Life cycle of graduate student
  - Recruitment and Applying
  - Virtual orientations (int'l students; info fairs, fellowships)
  - Academic progress, final examinations, ETD
  - Commencement
- Social networking and communication: twitter, featured graduate student, blogs/wikis, "forms", interactive catalog
- Administrative functionality and efficiencies
- Others: admissions, alumni connection, degree completion

Challenge & Innovation

- Technology advancements & tools; Tower & Cloud
- Transforming processes
- Digital network more than just delivery system

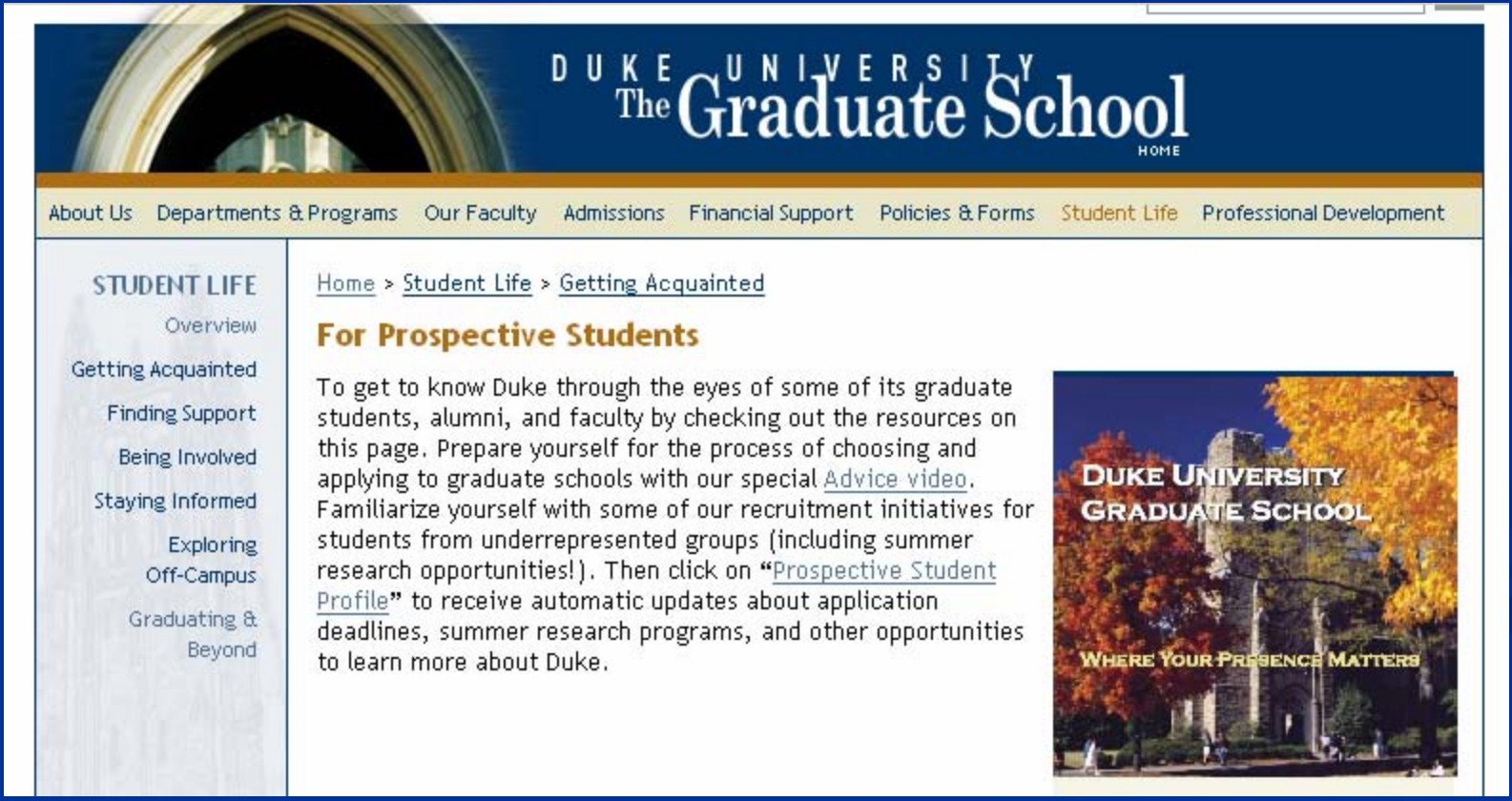
- Ne(x)t generations of students and faculty
- Digital natives and immigrants (faculty, staff and students)

- Communication and collaboration
- Learning and learner (student) focus
- Personalized and unique contexts
- Knowledge as process; knowledge sharing

Web 2.0 resources

- Identify friends (facebook, orkut, friendster)
- Education (citeulike, campusbug, carmun, koofers, rateteachers)
- Share resources: movies (youtube), pictures (flickr), status (twitter), bookmarks (del.icio.us, stumbleupon), news (digg, reddit), citations (citeulike), exams (koofers), slides (slideshare)
- Wikis, Blogs, Second Life, and more

Web resources- life cycle of a graduate student – Resources for prospective students



Web resources- life cycle of a graduate student – Prospective students

Web based system for prospective students to input data and request additional information.

Links to program description.

Generates an email response.

http://www.gradschool.duke.edu/admissions/prospective_student_profile.html

Web resources- life cycle of a graduate student – Resources for prospective students

Statistics on Departments, Programs, Time to degree

http://www.gradschool.duke.edu/about_us/statistics/

Web resources- life cycle of a graduate student – Application

- Apply Yourself – *http://www.applyyourself.com/*

Applicants can check status of application on line

At Duke applicants receive weekly emails updating them on status of application

Applicants can accept on line

Duke is transitioning to paperless application.

Personalized Recruitment

- Personalize information based on initial contact
  - Degree, Department, Ethnicity, Gender, etc.
- App provides access to information available on the web with personalization as a filter
- Same service available on web

People search

- Search VT's LDAP
- Provide list of default contacts

Courses

- Listing of all graduate program
- Course listings from website
- Personalization trims list of depts and courses

Quick Demo

- News
  - 3-4 common feeds for all
  - Others depending on the department of interest
- Courses - from department list
- Points of Contact
  - From department, ethnicity background, etc.
- Sample profiles
  - Vidya (physics), Matt (fisheries), Sama (architecture), Roy (finance, business, law)

Video Postcards

- Personalized message sent to students as a link to a video on website
- Video is personalized, plays …
  - Professor: Dear David. Congratulations, you have been admitted to Virginia Tech's graduate program in Computer Science.
  - *<camera fades away> other clips play in sequence*
  - Professor: As you can see, we offer … Hope to see you in the Fall.

Video Postcard

- Only part that needs to be personalized is the intro to the video.
  - Departments pick from existing clips of other pieces of information, some department specific, others more generic
- Graduate School is building infrastructure to provide this service to the departments.
  - We hope to have a testing phase in the Spring.

Pulse Pen

Life cycle for graduate education

- Orientations
- Workshops – fellowships
- Writing support
- Academic progress
- Scheduling examinations

Virtual Orientation for International Students

- Virtual Orientation for International Students
  - Objective- Provide EARLY orientation to Duke, Durham, US to international students
  - Content established by working group of students, staff and faculty
  - Produced locally; filmed and edited by Duke students. Cost ($450)

Virtual Orientation for International Students

- Virtual Orientation for International Students
  - Offered on line in June
  - 160 unique participants; questions asked via 'chat'
  - Evaluation on scale of 1 (low) to 10 (high) to "This webinar was helpful in preparing my transition to Duke University". Average score was 8.43.
  - Still available on line. http://ihouse.studentaffairs.duke.edu/services/orientation/graduate.html

VT Virtual Information Sessions

- **Graduate School online group chat events….To participate in a Chat Event, you must first create your Username and Password…. a link will appear at the scheduled time which will allow you to log in to the chat. To register for a chat event click go to Chat Event**
- **NCR Research Methods Consortium**

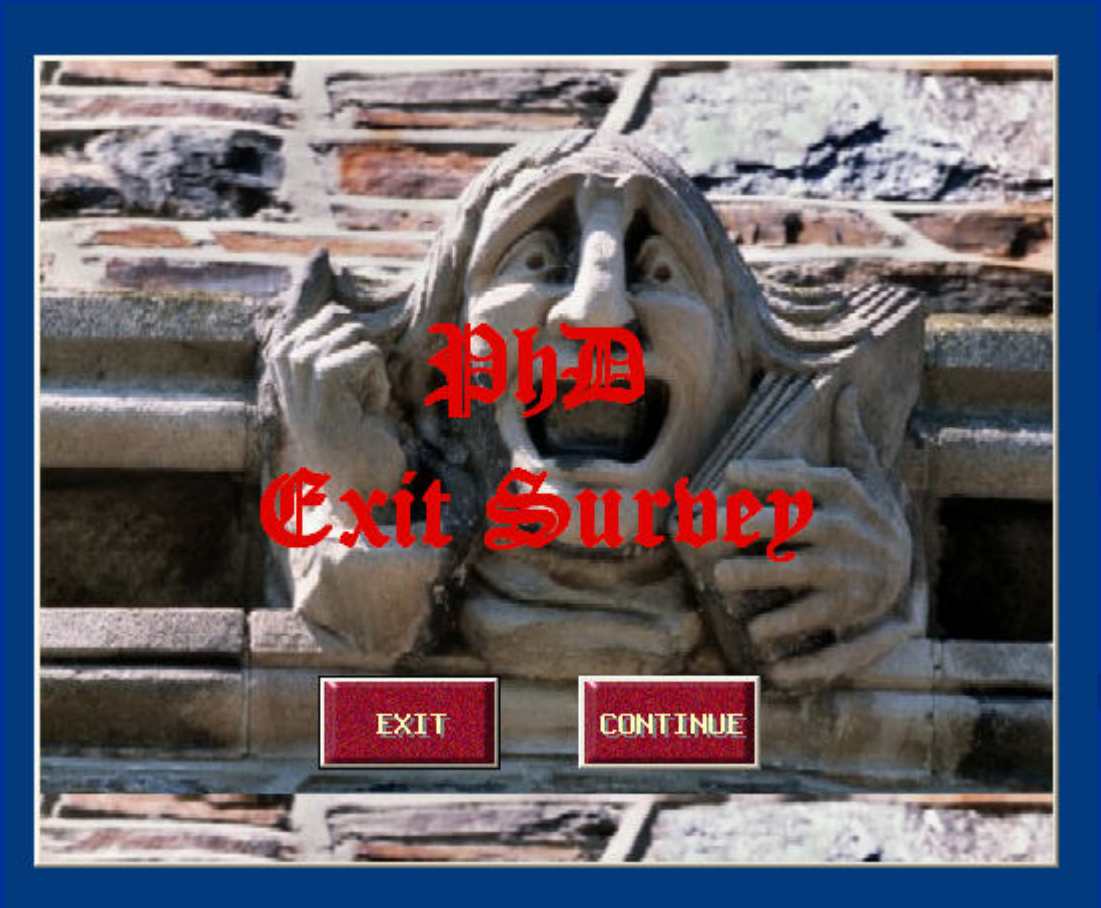
  The website describes available courses, examples of collaboration and in general, encourages information sharing and coordination of teaching. For more information see http://rmc.ncr.vt.edu/
- **Writing center support – virtual hours and assistance**

Web resources- life cycle of a graduate student – Final exam

- Students are required to come to Graduate School to receive their Final Exam Card and format check
- Appointments are made on line

Web resources- life cycle of a graduate student –Exit survey

Exit survey completion rate is approximately 98%



Web resources- life cycle of a graduate student – Commencement

DUKE UNIVERSITY
The Graduate School
HOME

About Us | Departments & Programs | Our Faculty | Admissions | Financial Support | Policies & Forms | Student Life | Professional Development

STUDENT LIFE

- Overview
- Getting Acquainted
- Finding Support
- Being Involved
- Staying Informed
- Exploring Off-Campus
- Graduating & Beyond

Home > Student Life > Graduating and Beyond

Graduation Ceremonies

2009 Commencement will take place Friday, May 8 through Sunday, May 10. The Ph.D. Hooding Ceremony will again take place on Saturday evening. Further details will be updated here in the Spring semester.

NOTE: All students who submitted an Intent to Graduate form for May 2008 or who graduated in September or December 2007 should fill out the appropriate Commencement Information Form from the list below before April 4, 2008:

- Graduation Deadlines
- Ph.D. Hooding Ceremony Information
- University Commencement Site
- **Academic Regalia Ordering Form** (Deadline: March 17)
- 2008 Ph.D. Commencement Information Form
- **2008 Master's Commencement Information Form**

"How many cares one loses when one decides not to be something but to be someone."

- Gabrielle "Coco" Chanel

Graduate School Events

Social networking and communication

- Final examination announcements
- Graduate School Blog (GSB) and twitter; wikis
- Ethical Pursuits Facebook
- Ombudsperson homepage
- Graduate Catalog
- Featured graduate student
- Online [Web] IM

VirginiaTech
Invent the Future

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Search

GRADUATE SCHOOL

Prospective Students | Newly Admitted Students | Current Students | International Students | Faculty & Staff | Alumni

- Admissions
- Academics
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- The Graduate School

Apply Now | Applying to Virginia Tech

The CAMPAIGN for VIRGINIA TECH Invent the Future

Follow us on Twitter

Nov 16 19:24:05

Sidewalk Chalk Showdown: Show your artistic talent; draw your country's flag at the GLC main entrance. Get chalk from GLC rm 110- stndt svcs

Nov 12 20:25:15

Nov 09 18:08:43

Automatic Tweets

Upcoming Final Examinations

Alper Erturk
(PHD, EM) 11/20/09 10:00 AM
"Electromechanical Mo..."

More >> | Get This Widget

Extended Campus

Hampton Roads • Roanoke
Richmond • Southwest Virginia
National Capital Region

Featured Graduate Student

Laura is a 23 year old grad student aiming to prove that no woman is one-dimensional. She is earning her masters in political science, reaching out to Girl Scouts and teenage girls in her free time, and she has competed twice in the Miss Virginia pageant, earning over $5,000 in scholarships.

More >>

Graduate School Blog

Call for Graduate Student Award Nominations
Thursday, November 05, 2009

International Education Week observed November 16-20, 2009
Tuesday, November 03, 2009

News

Pamplin professors find social media firms compete by reachi...
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Urban and regional planning graduate student wins Outstandin...
Thursday, November 12, 2009

Featured Information

- Transformative Graduate Education:
  - Graduate Scholars Society
  - Citizen Scholar Engagement
  - Graduate School Courses
- IGERT at Virginia Tech
- Graduate Ombudsperson
- Graduate Student Assembly
- Graduate Honor System
- Expectations for Graduate Study
- Alpha Epsilon Lambda
- Postdoctoral Association
- GLC Weekly

Feeds

VirginiaTech
Graduate School

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Graduate School
Graduate Life Center at Donaldson Brown(0325)
Blacksburg, VA 24061
Contact Us
Updated: Wednesday, November 18, 2009, 17:46 EST

e-Publication
e-Communication

simplifying life using toolsets of the student body

Biological Sciences
College of Science

Derring Hall contains offices, classrooms, and laboratory space for many of the science programs at Virginia Tech, such as biological sciences and geological sciences. The Museum of Geosciences is also located in the building. Named after Paul Neyron Derring (1894-1973) who was Secretary of the YMCA from 1918 to 1957 and Director of Religious Affairs from 1957 to 1964. A Phi Betta Kappa graduate, Derring was the first blind man to complete college in Virginia.

2125 Derring Hall
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA
24061
Mail Code: 0406

Degree(s) Offered:
MS: Blacksburg
PhD: Blacksburg

Email Contact(s):
Graduate Contact

Web Resources:
Graduate Course Descriptions
Graduate Site

Phone Number:
(540)231-8929

Minimum GPA:
3.0

Testing Requirements:
Institution code: 5859

TOEFL:
550 / 213 / 80
(Paper/ Computer/ iBT)

GRE:
General Test:
Verbal
Quantitative

Course Listing

Department Head : Robert H. Jones

Graduate Program Director: Robin Andrews

Alumni Distinguished Professor: Arthur Buikema
University Distinguished Professor: John Tyson
Harold Bailey Professor: Jeffrey Walters
Professor(s): Robin Andrews; Ernest Benfield; Donald Cherry; Klaus Elgert; Joseph Falkinham; Khidir Hilu; Robert Jones; Florence McNabb; Erik Nilsen; Brent Opell; John Phillips; David Popham; Jackson Webster; Brenda Winkel
Associate Professor(s): Liwu Li; Stephen Melville; Ann Stevens; Bruce Turner; Herbert Valett; Richard Walker; Zhaomin Yang; Jill Sible
Assistant Professor(s): Diya Banerjee; John Barrett; Lisa Belden; Daniel Capelluto; Daniela Cimini; Carla Finkielstein; Dana Hawley; Jeffrey Kuhn; Ignacio Moore; Birgit Scharf; Florian Schubot; Dorothea Tholl; Jianhua Xing
Research Associate: Maria Lazar; Christopher Lawrence

Program Information

The Department of Biological Sciences offers research and training that leads to the M.S. and Ph.D. degree. Graduate students craft programs of study that include a cutting edge research project, courses that support their particular interests, and at least one semester of a teaching experience in consultation with their research sponsor and a faculty advisory committee. Opportunities for research span the biological disciplines from molecular biology to ecosystem ecology and include computational, experimental, theoretical, and applied approaches. Our faculty and staff encourage graduate students to reach their full creative and scholarly potential. We take a holistic approach to graduate education by considering not just research skills, but also the ability to communicate effectively with their professional colleagues and undergraduate students. In addition to their research program, graduate students may elect to earn a graduate certificate in "The Future Professoriate," which includes mentored classroom teaching. In short, our program fosters individually tailored programs that lead to successful careers in research and education. We encourage prospective students to explore the research programs of potential sponsors. Faculty members maintain web pages that present their research activities. Contacting individual faculty and their students prior to formal application provides an opportunity to explore mutual interests.

Degree Requirements

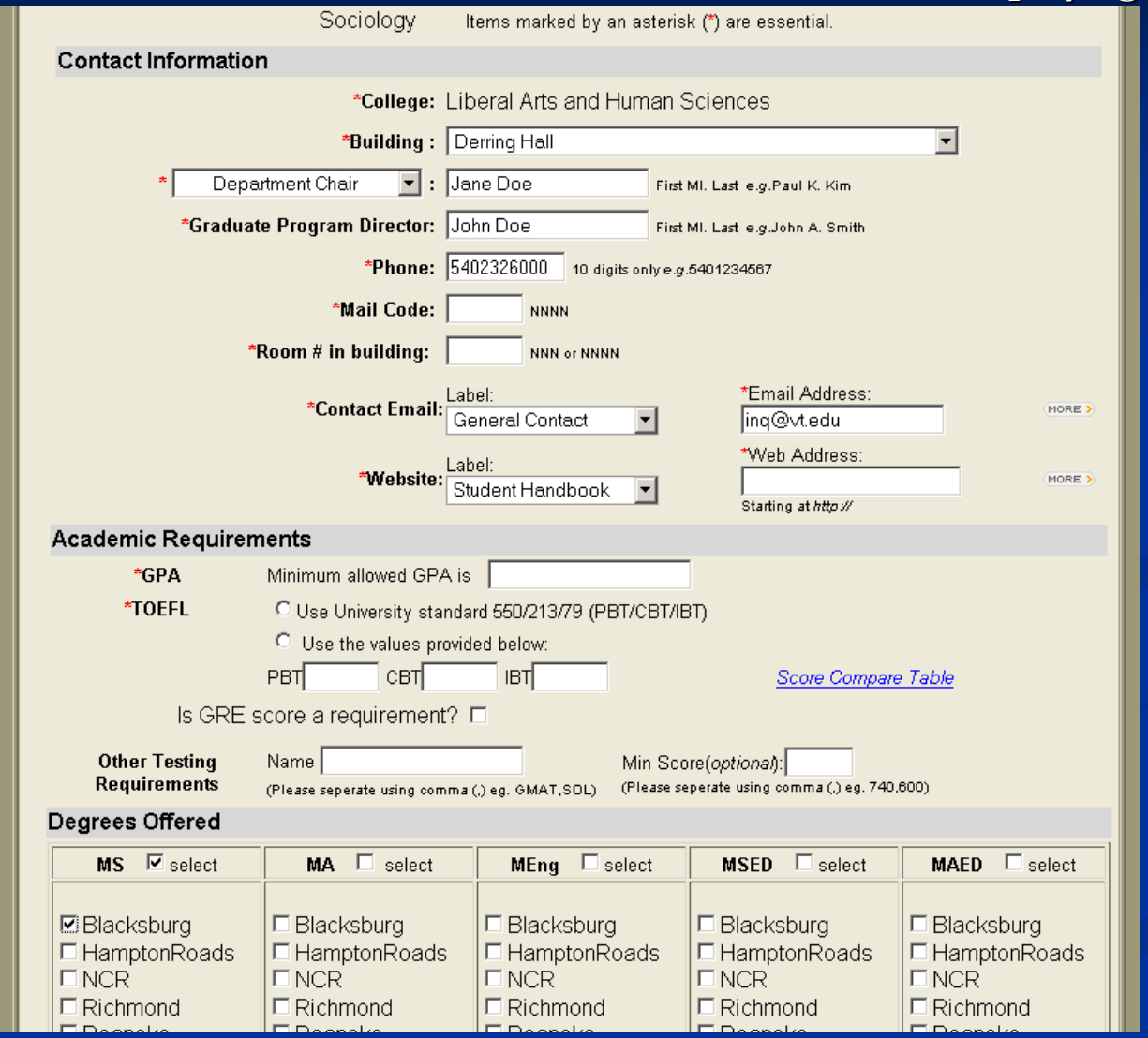
M.S. must take 12 hours at the 5000 level, 3 hours at the 4000 level, and 3 additional hours for seminars

- Online; up-to-date
- Unified presentation of information across offerings
- archival

Virginia Tech Online Graduate Catalog

e-Publication
e-Communication

simplifying life using toolsets of the student body



- Ease annual update
- Allow for in-line changes as they are effective (policy, faculty, contacts)
- Encourage multi-level review process via workflow (no paper!)

Online Graduate Catalog

Virginia Tech
GRADUATE SCHOOL

Admissions
Academics
Financial Matters
Student Life
International Graduate Student Services
The Graduate School

Apply online

Featured Graduate Student

For the last eight years Sven has pursued a career in physics. He had the chance to work and study in Germany, Luxembourg and in France before entering graduate school in 2006. This was a unique chance for him to experience subtle cultural differences. Besides research that has become an important part in his life, Sven is trying to absorb and understand as much as possible of the culture and lifestyle of the countries that he visits.

More >>

CAMPAIGN for VIRGINIA TECH

Featured Graduate Student, November 2008
Sven Dorosz

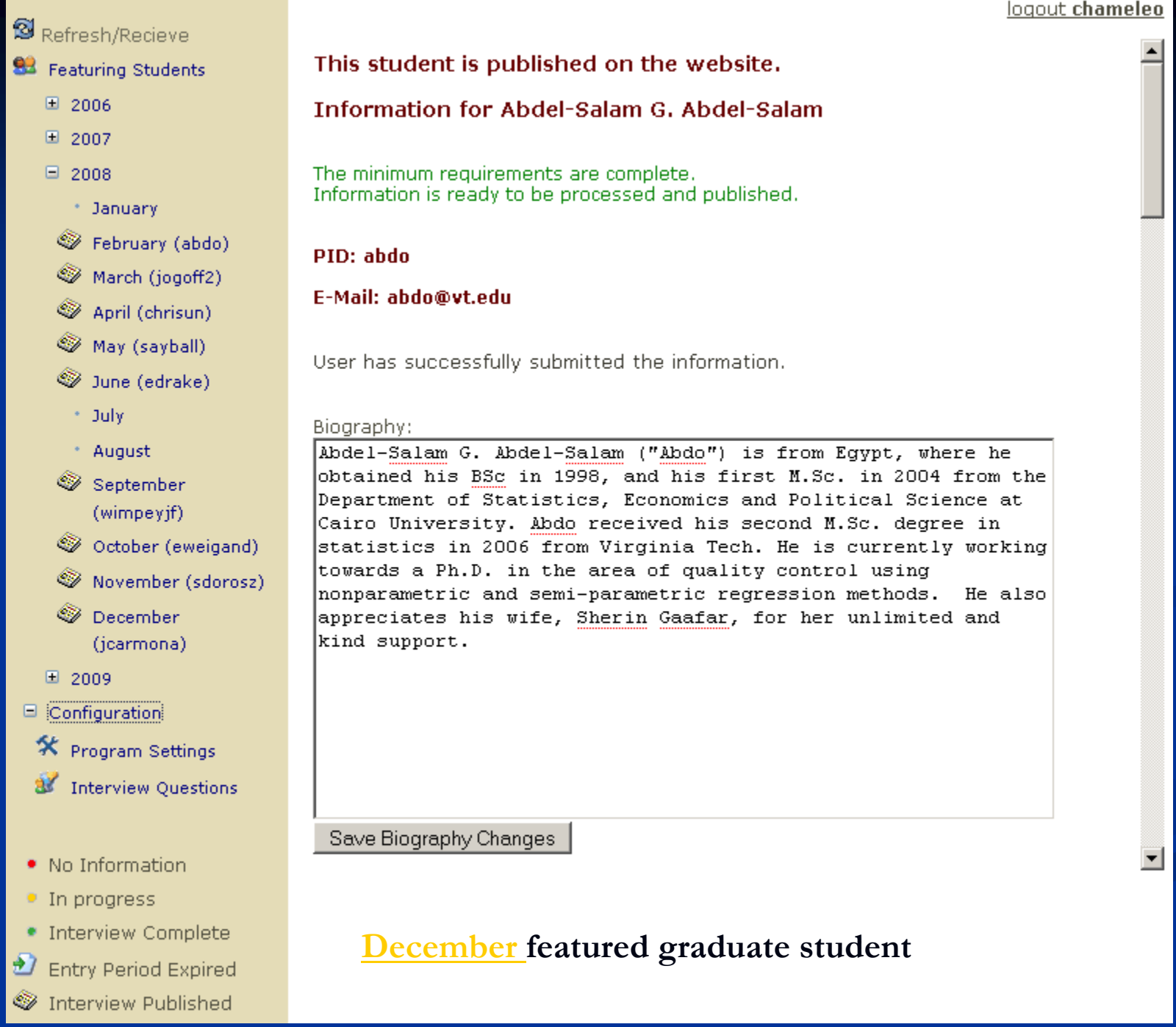
For the last eight years Sven has pursued a career in physics. He had the chance to work and study in Germany, Luxembourg and in France before entering graduate school in 2006. This was a unique chance for him to experience subtle cultural differences. Besides research that has become an important part in his life, Sven is trying to absorb and understand as much as possible of the culture and lifestyle of the countries that he visits.

Interview:

How would you describe your area of study to your grandmother?
Last summer I was at my grandparent's house when I listened to a conversation in the next room. My grandpa asked about me and what I was doing. He sounded so proud when he was talking about water freezing solid and melting back to water, metals heating up and deforming and that all these phenomena are described by a large number of interacting atoms. I was so surprised and happy in that moment.

What is your primary motivation for persevering through graduate school?
Graduate school is giving me the freedom to chose my own research projects and to spend as much time as I need to study theories that I find interesting. So in the end I might even come up with my own theory. I am enjoying this time of my career without teaching duties and administrative deadlines that will probably take most of my time if I'm offered a faculty position.

Do you think there is any value in social networking with other graduate students in non-related fields?
I definitely think social networking is very important. Graduate school enables you to interact with people of different cultural as well as academic backgrounds. This is a great opportunity here at Virginia Tech. For future projects, that might ask for more than just one's own expertise, this will be a great advantage.



December featured graduate student

Bits not Atoms

- Information is in digital form, treat it as a digital medium not as a physical medium
  - What is the "original" of a document?
  - What does "physical copy" mean anymore?
- Implications are significant…
  - View documents online (browser, phones, XBox)
  - Classification is not strictly hierarchical
  - Copy/Paste is wrong model

How to make the Deans more functional and efficient

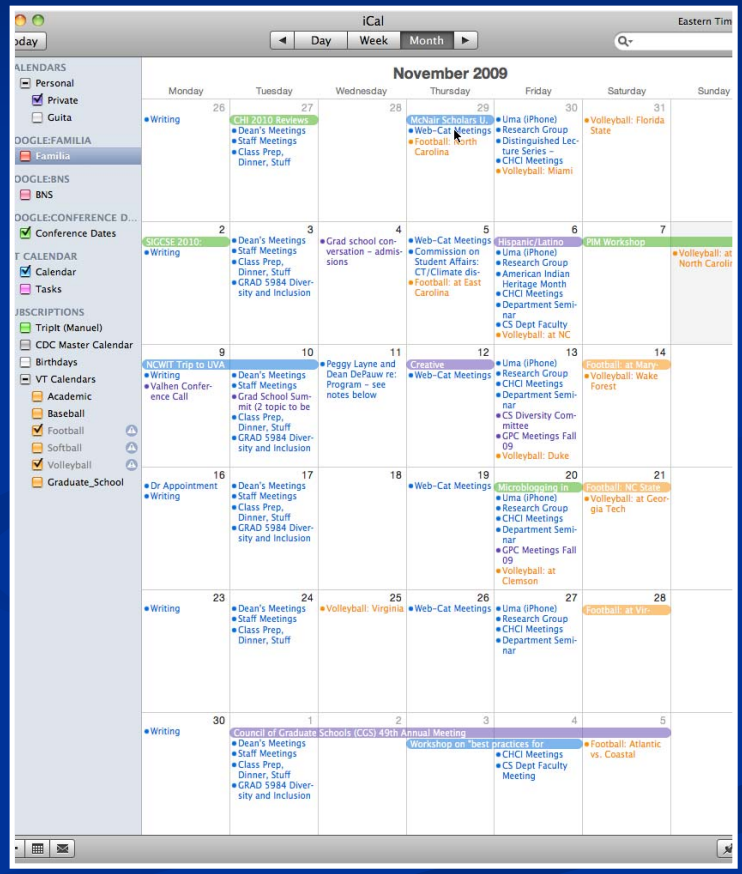
- Use calendar to answer 2 simple questions
  - *What (and where) is my next meeting?*
  - *Am I available on day X at time Y?*
- Multiple sources makes task complicated
  - Work, family, entertainment, town (football games), upcoming deadlines, conference schedule, etc.

Solution

- Calendar information in one location
- Reduce management
  - Collaborators enters appointments directly
  - Subscribe to other calendars
- Organizations
  - Publish calendar data in a standard format
  - Grad School Events publicly available

Shared Calendars

- Keep track of upcoming deadlines
- Group responsibility to post/manage
- Google Calendar, iCal or even Exchange



Once setup… fun begins

- Calendar services available
  - Trip calendars out of Tripit.com
  - Sports calendar out of school athletic department
  - Holidays calendar
  - Family birthdays out of address book
  - etc.