Access to the internet at SIU is changing. Later this year, eduroam will become the university’s primary Wi-Fi network (as SIU Indoor is phased out). As part of this transition, SIU students, faculty and staff will be able to set up eduroam to not only access Wi-Fi on campus, but to also connect to secure, wireless service on member campuses and research institutions across the U.S. and around the globe.

When on another participating campus or research institution, eduroam members have access to the internet using their own institutional credentials—no guest ID or password required. SIUC students, faculty and staff simply enter their dawg tag ID and password to log on when visiting participating campuses and institutions. Likewise, students, faculty and visitors from around the world enjoy wireless connectivity at SIUC.

In a country like the U.S., where wireless access is widely available, finding a “hotspot” isn’t a challenge. Although we may complain about temporary loss of access or “slow speed” we are fortunate to have reasonably consistent service. Conversely, researchers and scholars who travel to and/or live in other parts of the world know that being able to identify quick, reliable, accessible internet connectivity can be difficult. In these locales, eduroam can be invaluable. A simple check of eduroam locations lets travelers know if internet is available on campuses where they plan to study, visit, or live. (You can find active eduroam locations on the eduroam site at https://www.eduroam.us/institutions_list.)

Security presents another issue when travelling beyond your home campus; even more so in foreign and unfamiliar locales. The originating institution provides and is the only entity with access to an eduroam user’s sign-in information—secure information is not shared anywhere in the access chain, including with eduroam. In the near future, eduroam will become an important tool for students, faculty staff at SIUC, and all those who visit our campus. Just as quickly, it will become a part of our SIUC technology toolbox.

SIUC Office of Information Technology is in the process of making eduroam widely available to our campus community. In the coming months, SIUC students, faculty and staff will hear more about eduroam and will be provided information to move from SIU Indoor Wireless to eduroam and set up easy access on member campuses. When OIT moves into the transition phase (summer 2016), complete instructions for accessing eduroam will be available on the OIT website and through SalukiTech. The transition is simple and takes just a few minutes.
Computer Lab Green Fund Award
The projects selected as the newest recipients of Green Fund awards at Southern Illinois University Carbondale include thin client computers for student computer labs.

The energy-efficient computer changes total $3,100. Ten computers in campus labs will have their central processing units replaced by “thin clients” that will provide access to the same software from a central server but will be 50 percent more efficient than personal computers and have substantially longer service lives.

A total of more than $240,800 was allocated for 20 diverse projects this spring. The announcement of the winning projects came during campus Earth Day festivities on April 22.

“We’re really excited about the projects that the SIU community has brought to our attention. We were also impressed by the number and quality of the student-initiated proposals. The research and effort put into their applications was impressive and really reiterated how much our students want to create a more sustainable campus,” Jerrica Jordan, graduate student representative on the Sustainability Council and Green Fund Committee member, said.

“Because of the number of quality applications we received, it was difficult to decide which proposals were most deserving of funding,” Jordan, an English doctoral candidate, added. “Ultimately, preference went to those that best demonstrated an attempt to aid sustainability efforts on an economic, social or environmental level.”

Funding for the grants comes from a $10 per-semester student Green Fee, adopted as the result of a student-led initiative. Since its inception in 2009, the Green Fund has awarded more than $2 million to 153 projects, including those announced this week.

To learn more about SIU’s award-winning commitment to sustainability and green initiatives, visit www.sustainability.siu.edu.

Information Security News
The May issue of OUCH! is led by James Lyne, with a focus on the Internet of Things (IoT). Specifically, what IoT is, how IoT impacts our personal lives and what we can do to protect IoT devices. Find out more at https://securingthehuman.sans.org/newsletters/ouch/issues/OUCH-201605_en.pdf.