



Update – June 2009

NEWS

-- SURAGrid Spring All Hands Meeting Highlights--

An extremely productive SURAGrid All Hands meeting was held April 29th – May 1st in Washington, DC at SURA. Twenty representatives from fifteen organizations participated in person. Online conferencing increased attendance to close to forty participants.

Looking to shape the future directions and program sustainability, the afternoon on Wednesday was kicked off with a pair of cloud computing discussions. Dr. Mladen Vouk presented North Carolina State University's Virtual Computing Lab, a cloud-based infrastructure for providing computing services for desktop as well as high performance computing. Dr. Luis Bermudez of SURA presented a discussion of a SURA Coastal Cloud concept. Seven working group meetings concluded the program on Wednesday.

On Thursday, a joint session was held with CASC where Debbi Bucci of NIH presented the NIH's access management framework and Jennifer Schopf of NSF presented an overview of NSF's Office of Cyberinfrastructure plans and programs. John-Paul Robinson of UAB presented concepts from the forthcoming SURAGrid white paper on sustainable Cyberinfrastructure construction for campuses. The exchange and discussion between the SURAGrid and CASC communities was healthy and valuable. The afternoon discussions on Thursday focused on progress updates including the state of SURAGrid followed by site reports from SURAGrid members, strategic relationships, and authentication and authorization issues.

Sustainability, user engagement and strategic use of SURAGrid at member institutions were themes as the SURAGrid milestones and progress discussion was moderated by Art Vandenberg. Throughout the course of the meeting SURAGrid members exhibited enthusiasm and assumed leadership roles for several SURAGrid initiatives including development of a Technical Infrastructure Working Group, Collaboration Infrastructure Working Group, MSI Outreach Working Group, and new leadership for the ongoing support of the SURA Stack.

Complete meeting notes with presentations and handouts are available at http://www.sura.org/programs/sura_grid_communications.html.

-- SURAGrid Governance Committee Elections --

The 2009 SURAGrid Governance Committee (SGC) election is complete. The SGC is comprised of eight members elected from the SURAGrid community and one SURA appointed member. Elections are held annually, with members serving one or two year terms to balance the need for continuity while ensuring an infusion of fresh insights. The current SGC members are as follows:

- Amy Apon, University of Arkansas (term expires 2010)
- Gary Crane, Southeastern Universities Research Association (appointed member)
- David Matthews-Morgan, University of Georgia (term expires May 2011)
- John-Paul Robinson, University of Alabama at Birmingham (term expires 2010)
- Mike Sachon, Old Dominion University (term expires 2010)
- Phil Smith, Texas Tech University (term expires 2011)
- Eduardo Socolovsky, Norfolk State University (term expires 2011)
- Nicholas Tsinoremas, University of Miami (term expires 2011)
- Art Vandenberg, Georgia State University (term expires 2010)

- - Meet the New SGC Members - -

Amy Apon – University of Arkansas



Director of the Arkansas High Performance Computing Center and Professor of Computer Science at the University of Arkansas

Statement of Interest: I have watched the SURAgriD community grow from just a few interested individuals to a broad regional organization of many different and different types of institutions. I see how SURAgriD can be helpful to research institutions as well as primarily undergraduate-serving institutions. I am also aware of the ties that SURAgriD has to institutions that are not in the SURA region. For example, the University of Arkansas has ties to SURA, to the Great Plains Network Consortium (GPN), and ties to national organizations such as CASC. I am eager to be closely involved with SURAgriD and to serve on the SURAgriD Governance Committee because I feel that I can assist as a liaison and

line of communication to some of these other communities. The momentum that SURAgriD is building is great. I am hopeful that we can be even more effective as we engage and collaborate with institutions and communities across the U.S.

David Matthews Morgan – University of Georgia



Director of IT at the University of Georgia UGA Research Computing Center

Statement of Interest: I am interested in serving on the SURAgriD Governance Committee (SGC) because I feel I can make valuable contributions to support the SURAgriD initiative based on my 25 years of broad IT experience, most recently in high-performance computing. I have worked on the SURAgriD Funding Working Group for three iterations and will continue to participate in that worthwhile endeavor. I am committed to serving the computational needs of the UGA and SURA research community through grid-enabled cyberinfrastructure such as SURAgriD.

Phil Smith - Texas Tech University



Director of the TTU High Performance Computing Center and a Professor of Mathematics and Statistics at Texas Tech University

Statement of Interest: Texas Tech University has been associated with SURAgriD for several years. Several members of the TTU HPCC have been actively involved in SURAgriD. We have made several presentations regarding various aspects of grid technology. In particular, Jerry Perez and Alan Sill are most active in these settings. We actively support the SURAgriD stack and help members install and trouble shoot issues when necessary. As active partners, TTU looks forward to furthering the success and accomplishments of SURAgriD. I would like to serve on the governance committee because I am committed to seeing SURAgriD succeed.

My interest in grids is actually an interest in helping users complete their work in the most efficacious manner. As a member of the SURAgriD Governance Committee, my main intention would be to serve as a user advocate. My goal for the next two years is to ramp up user participation and to encourage user groups to form based on domain science and technology synergies.

Eduardo Adolfo Socolovsky – Norfolk State University



Bioinformatics and Computational Science Coordinator at Norfolk State University's Center for Biotechnology and Biomedical Science

Statement of Interest: The relationship between SURAgriD and the Center for Biotechnology at Norfolk State began with the SURAgriD Microsoft Cluster Computing project. Our Center's initial role was as a prospective user of bioHPC, a biotechnology software package developed by Cornell University which runs under HPC2008. NSU's relationship with SURAgriD has grown into collaborations in other areas of High Performance Computing, Cyber-Infrastructure, Funding Opportunities and Outreach, exploiting and developing strategic synergies.

Through SURAgriD, NSU faculty and staff can access cyberinfrastructure resources and support not available at NSU. For example, Dali Wang is helping NSU install HPC2008 and BioHPC, and Linda Akli has been instrumental in arranging support from Georgia State and ODU to use DOCK 6.2 at ODU. SURAgriD response is unparalleled, compared to previous Outreach efforts in which NSU participated. The upshot is that *success in these specific areas, plus the development of cyber-infrastructure and funding opportunities, can serve as examples and models of collaboration between MSI's, SURAgriD and SURAgriD participant organizations.*

Dr. Nicholas Tsinoremas – University of Miami



Founding Director of Center for Computational Sciences (CCS) at the University of Miami and Research Professor at the Miller School of Medicine

Statement of Interest: It becomes increasingly critical to develop modern and technologically advanced inter and intra campus cyberinfrastructure that connects researchers, teachers, students and ultimately Institutions together. We need to understand the current challenges of the research and teaching communities and be able to respond in a rapid and an innovative way using cutting edge technology. SURAgriD provides such a forum to debate, develop and implement such ideas and technologies. I strongly believe that the SURAgriD should be in the forefront of such efforts and become a focal point where the member Universities and individuals meet to promote collaboration through a cutting edge Cyber-Infrastructure.

- - SURAgriD closes in on Strategic Plan Goal of 3000 Cores - -

SURAgriD has a goal milestone to *Increase SURAgriD resources by at least 50% each year through 2012* (see Goal 2, of the SURAgriD Strategic Plan <http://www.sura.org/programs/docs/SURAgriDSPlan.pdf>). University of Alabama at Birmingham and Texas A&M University recently upgraded their systems; bringing SURAgriD close to the May 2009 goal of 3,000 Cores. Calclab (TAMU), Cheaha (UAB) and Hydra (TAMU) all have increased their cores, and SURAgriD is now at 2916 cores. HYDRA is the TAMU IBM System p5 that has been expanded with an SURA-IBM offering of refurbished p5 racks.

All issues of SURAgriD update can be found at http://sura.org/programs/sura_grid_communications.html. Please submit comments and contributions for inclusion to Linda Akli at akli@sura.org.