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*By Dena Bunnel, Member Coordinator*

**1. Latest News**

**[Riverbluff Cave Virtual Tours Attended by Thousands](#)**

On November 7, 2007, morning and afternoon virtual tours took an estimated **2,500 to 3,000 students** to the



**Riverbluff Cave** near Columbia, Missouri.

The cave is only open to researchers who enter to study the past!

In addition to **154 video streaming sites**, there were six videoconferencing sites/classrooms for each 45-minute tour located in **Missouri, Kansas, North Dakota and Oklahoma**. Students who did not participate in a live videoconference were able to ask questions via email.

GPN Executive Director **Greg Monaco** explained the popularity of the event this way: "This event focused on a really fascinating subject that brings out the Tom Sawyer in each of us. Plus, it demonstrated the live, interactive capabilities that exist across the network in a stimulating, educational and entertaining way. There is just no way to see that cave other than virtually, and it has some really awesome

features. The planning team did a great job of putting this together and publicizing the event, Matt Forir, the paleontologist who led the tours, was a charismatic guide, and the staff of MOREnet did a superb job to get this from below ground to an eager audience."

In addition to **Matt Forir**, lead paleontologist for the Riverbluff Cave, author **David Harrison**, who wrote a recently published children's book about the cave, participated in the elementary school session. The planning team was composed of **Bill Giddings (MOREnet)**, who also moderated the tours, **Randy Stout (KAN-ED)**, **Kim Owens (EDUTECH)**, and **Ann Lundy (SCKESC)**. You can read teacher feedback, questions from students and answers by Matt and David at the [GPN blog](#). Learn what's next for the GPN SEGP group [here](#).

**[Internet2 demonstrations showcase interoperability with GPN, others at SC07](#)** - Internet2, together with several partners and collaborators, demonstrated for the first time interoperability of its Dynamic Circuit (DC) Network with multiple regional and international networks as well as an equipment provider, at SC07, the annual international conference on high performance computing, networking, storage, and analysis. The demonstration marks a milestone in facilitating the widespread adoption of dynamic circuit networking by showcasing how networks with different equipment, network technology, and allocation models can dynamically provision dedicated circuits across domains.

**[FCC Funds Networking via Rural Health Care Awards](#)** - On November 19, 2007, the FCC made a series of substantial awards to improve access to health care in rural



areas. The awards will assist public and non-profit health care providers to establish state and regional broadband networks dedicated to health care services and to connect to nationwide advanced research and education networks like Internet2.

Awardees include the Arkansas Telehealth Network, the KU Medical Center (KS), the Missouri Telehealth Network and Pathways Community Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. (MO), the Rural Nebraska Healthcare Network, the Heartland Unified Broadband Network (SD, ND, IA, MN, NE, WY), the Sanford Health Collaboration and Communication Channel (SD, IA, MN), Iowa Rural Health Telecommunications Program (IA, NE, SD) and the Iowa Health System (IA, IL).

## 2. GPN Representative Profile

### Black Hills State University

**Warren Wilson,  
Ed.D.**

**Chief Information  
Officer, Instructional  
Technology**



Dr. Warren Wilson is the Chief Information Officer for the instructional technology department at Black Hills State University. He is also the Executive Director of the South Dakota Library Network, a consortium of 70+ members representing academic, public, K-12, and special libraries. Prior to accepting these positions he was Director of Regents Information Systems for the South Dakota Board of Regents. In this position he was responsible for statewide administrative applications (accounting, library, payroll/personnel, and student) and network coordination for the six public universities and two special schools.

Warren holds an Ed.D. from the University of South Dakota, an M.B.A. from the University of Iowa, and a B.S. from Monmouth College.

Although Black Hills State is one of GPN's newest members, Warren has been involved with GPN for many years, and we are excited to welcome him to the GPN Representative Council.

## 3. Campus Notes

### University of Oklahoma creates 'living art'

*Bion* is an interactive art installation that explores the relationship between humans and artificial life. Created by Adam Brown and Andrew Fagg at the University of Oklahoma, the installation is a sensor network that is composed



of 1,000 3-dimensional glowing and chirping sculptural forms. Each bion consists of a tiny computer, an audio speaker, blue light emitting diodes, and multiple sensors. These sensor units have the ability to communicate with and react to the bions around them and the viewers that enter the space.



When viewers approach the installation space, they witness a dynamic array of blips of sound and blue light emanating in cloud-like patterns from all parts of the room as the bions are

communicating, unaware of the approaching



visitor. When the viewer enters the room, one of the bions is alerted to the presence of a stranger and quickly communicates the information to the swarm of bions. One by one, in rapid succession, the bions signal other bions of the stranger and, in a wave-like pattern, become silent. The bions eventually become accustomed to the presence of viewers and begin to respond to them as if they was part of their ecosystem. They become attracted to the viewers and glow more intensely when they near. Eventually, viewers are incorporated into the dynamic array they once witnessed.

#### 4. Funding Opportunities from the National Science Foundation

**Note:** [Bruce McMillin](#) from **Missouri Institute of Science and Technology** (formerly, the University of Missouri at Rolla) has been leading an effort among **GPN researchers** to form **working groups** to reply to the **NSF Cyber-Physical System RFP**. If you are interested in joining in this effort, please let us know.

[Center for Research at the Interface of the Mathematical and Biological Sciences \(CIMBS\)](#) - Preliminary Proposal: December 24, 2007; Full Proposal: April 2, 2008.

[Chemistry Research Instrumentation and Facilities: Cyberinfrastructure and Research Facilities \(CRIF:CRF\)](#) - Full Proposal: February 1, 2008.

[Science and Society \(STS\)](#) - Full Proposal: February 1, 2008.

[Informal Science Education \(ISE\)](#) - Preliminary Proposal: March 13, 2008; Full Proposal: June 19, 2008.

#### 5. Recent Awards

**NSF:** Here are the new NSF awards that were registered since the last newsletter.

##### **Kansas**

Start Date: 11/1/2007; **Taylor, Edith;** [Permineralized Plants from the Permian and Triassic of Antarctica: A Critical Time in Seed Plant Evolution](#); University of Kansas Center for Research Inc; \$411,497; (635477).

##### **Missouri**

Start Date: 1/1/2008; **Ezekiel, Uthayashanker;** [SBIR PHASE I: A Technology that Improves Gene Targeting](#); GENEPROTECH,INC.; \$100,000; (740278).

##### **Nebraska**

Start Date: 11/1/2007; **Hibbing, John;** [Collaborative Research: Genes and Politics: Providing the Necessary Data](#); University of Nebraska-Lincoln; \$126,946; (721378).

##### **Oklahoma**

Start Date: 11/15/2007; **Simmons, Charlotte;** [NSF/CBMS Regional Conference in the Mathematical Sciences-Knots and Topological Quantum Computing-Summer 2008](#); University of Central Oklahoma; \$32,200; (735291).

##### **South Dakota**

Start Date: 9/1/2007; **Giraud, Gerald;** [Lakota Land 2 - Sharing Lakota History](#); Oglala Lakota College; \$51,453; (703813).

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**NIH Awards:** The new awards in our region for Bioinformatics and/or Computational Biology from NIH's CRISP database.

##### **Missouri**

**Deng, Hong-Wen;** [Biostatistics and Bioinformatics Core](#); University Of Missouri - Kansas City; (1P50AR055081-017146).

#### 6. Upcoming Meetings

##### **GPN Meetings**

**Bioinformatics/Computational Biology Teleconference** — First Wednesday of every month at 2:00 p.m. Next: December 5, 2007. [Join here.](#)



**GPN Representative Council Teleconference** — Fourth Wednesday of every month at 10:00 a.m.

**GPN Research Advisory Board Teleconference** - Second Wednesday of every quarter at 1:00 p.m. Next: December 12, 2007.

**GPNgrid Technical Administration** - Alternate Fridays at 1:30 p.m. Next: November 30, 2007. [Join here.](#)

**Middleware/Grid Teleconference** — Alternate Fridays at 1:30 p.m. Next: December 7, 2007. [Join here.](#)

### ***Regional Meetings/Workshops***

**GPN Strategic Planning Meeting** – On December 17-18, members of GPN will meet in Kansas City to begin the development of a strategic plan for the Great Plains Network.

## **7. Subscription Information**

[Join the GPN email list here.](#)

[Join GPN Projects here.](#)

Please send any notices to share with the GPN community to [denab@ksu.edu](mailto:denab@ksu.edu).

**Further information can be found at:**  
<http://collaboration.greatplains.net>.

**Leave your own comments and feedback too! GPN now has its own blog.** [Register for the blog here.](#)