

Radford University Radford, Virginia

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Radford University (RU) is located on the New River in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Southwest Virginia. Its more than 9,000 students attend one of seven colleges: Business and Economics, Education and Human Development, Waldron College of Health and Human Services, Humanities and Behavioral Sciences, Science and Technology, Visual and Performing Arts, and the College of Graduate and Professional Studies.

Scott Shull, RU's AV Manager, began a phased migration of their 188 electronic classrooms to Crestron two years ago with the help of The Whitlock Group. "We initially installed a combination of Extron and SP Controls gear, but the volume of boxes and limited functionality was becoming hard to manage," Shull said. The school is now standardized on Crestron in six buildings.



integrated 4" touchpanel, computer interface, cable storage compartment, gated mic preamp, and QuickMedia® (QM) transport.

"The MPS is very flexible," said Shull. "The fact that it integrates the control system, switcher, audio controls and amplifier in one box – what other solutions need about five boxes to accomplish – makes installation a lot easier. And the QM output for wiring, with its single cable, also greatly simplifies installation."

Shull plans to roll out RoomView® software for asset management within the next six months. He is looking forward to the software enabling him to remotely perform control system diagnostics; track usage of projector lamps; log network activity; automate tasks through event scheduling, and remotely lock out selected rooms to prevent unauthorized use of the AV equipment. Ultimately, when all the electronic classrooms, auditoriums, conference, seminar, and meeting rooms are standardized on Crestron, they will be connected via RoomView on a managed network, enabling centralized control, scheduling and reporting functions.

Three large auditoriums have dual projectors, laptop connections, wireless VGA presentation, document camera, local computer, VCR/DVD, and wireless mic, which are controlled by an MPS-300 and the QM FlipTop. The University President's boardroom and conference room have MPS-100s and QM FlipTops, used largely for PowerPoint presentations.

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The average classroom is equipped with an LCD projector, laptop connections, wireless VGA presentation system, document camera, local computer, VCR/DVD, wireless mic, and in some rooms, SMART Boards. Devices and connections are controlled by the Crestron MPS (100, 200, or 300, depending on the timing of the installation). A Crestron FlipTop Touchpanel Computer Center is mounted in a podium in each room, with



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Three buildings at the school are currently being remodeled. One will have 11 classrooms with two LCD displays and a projector managed by an MPS-300 and TPMC-8L touchpanel, which will be the standard classroom configuration going forward. Another will have four conference rooms that will be equipped with the iMedia FlipTop Computer and Video Center, transmitting computer RGB, video, and stereo audio signals to a display. The third will have 10 meeting rooms utilizing the Crestron iMedia Wall Plate Multimedia Interface, the transmitter that provides composite video, RGB, and stereo audio inputs for connection to the output of a computer. All conference, seminar, and meeting rooms will be equipped with either the iMedia FlipTop or Wall Plate solution and an LCD display or projector.

Radford has a goal for a more open teaching format, and will be creating an environment in which students will populate circular tables, with two large LCDs and a SMART Board (for the projector's output) that will be laid out across three walls. This will enable to instructor to move around the room, and not be anchored to one spot.

For Shull, who is responsible for all 188 electronic classrooms with the help of two full-time employees, Reggie Williams and Josh Williams (distant relatives!) the experience with Crestron has been very positive: "The great thing about the customizable touchscreens is the ability to create the perfect GUI for instructor ease of use. The variety and flexibility of the equipment allows it to be adapted to a lot of applications, and the equipment reliability has been wonderful. iMedia is pretty much right out of the box. There's not a lot of programming to it; you can have it up and running in half a day."

