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WI-FI AWARENESS CAMPAIGN: MOVING THE NEEDLE TO THE HIGH-SPEED NETWORK

Houston, Nov. 9, 2012 – As part of its Wi-Fi Awareness Campaign, University Information Technology launched a Wi-Fi service desk at M.D. Anderson Library and a weekly drawing for students in September.

The purpose of the Awareness Campaign is to encourage students to use the high-speed Wi-Fi network. On average, more than 30,000 unique devices connect to the Wi-Fi network on a daily basis, and about 35 percent of these devices are capable of connecting to the high-speed network. The campaign has helped increase this percentage from 23 percent to 35 percent during the last couple of months.

University of Houston junior Renat Tatarin is the second winner of UIT’s weekly Wi-Fi drawing. He received a Netgear N600 wireless dual band USB adapter, which he said has improved his Wi-Fi network experience considerably.

“I have tried the network adapter and got faster download and upload speeds than my laptop could with the preinstalled adapter,” he said.

A math major, Tatarin is conducting research for Dr. Seamus Curran, director of the university’s Institute for NanoEnergy. He will begin his senior research next semester under Curran’s guidance.

Students may enter the weekly drawing by submitting their name and email address at UIT’s Wi-Fi service desk on the first floor of M.D. Anderson Library. The service desk is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday. Names are pulled every Friday, and winners are notified by email.

An average of 200 students have visited the booth each week since it was debuted in September, seeking ways to improve their high-speed Wi-Fi experience on campus. In some cases, this
simply requires reconfiguring the settings on their wireless devices. In other cases, a USB adapter is suggested.

Due to the success of the Awareness Campaign, UIT will institute a second Wi-Fi service desk next week. It will be located in the University Center Satellite for two to three weeks, and then move to another building depending upon student demand.

Students using devices capable of accessing only the low-speed "g" network are encouraged to purchase a Wi-Fi dual band USB adapter from Cougar Byte for $52.99 or any other computer retail store.

For information about UH wireless services, initiatives, coverage map and FAQs, visit www.uh.edu/wifi. To learn how to improve your Wi-Fi experience, visit www.uh.edu/infotech/services/computing/networks/wireless/improve-wi-fi-experience/index.php.

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