Stetson University
DeLand, Florida

Corporate | Residential | **Education** | Government | Hospitality | Transportation | Worship | Healthcare | Cultural and Event Centers | Commercial Lighting

Stetson University in DeLand, FL, represents an impressive number of "firsts". It was the state's first school of business as well as Florida's first private university. Exemplifying the school's commitment to leadership, its state-of-the-art Lynn Business Center (LBC) was the first LEED-certified building in Florida.

Stetson University is standardized on Crestron, and currently has 45 Crestron control systems supporting classrooms and laboratories in seven buildings. From the outset, Stetson Director Technology Applications Gerry Ewing recognized the importance of having an identical user interface to facilitate and simplify faculty training. Now it just simplifies usage: the touchpanel GUIs are so intuitive, faculty training is no longer necessary.

> " What makes Crestron special is that it's an organization where people are valued, which is true of Stetson as well. I expect our partnership to continue for many years to come."

With no on-staff technical support for the school's AV systems, Ewing found that having Web-based tools for remote troubleshooting and support was crucial. To that end, Ewing uses Crestron RoomView® Express software, which also handles room scheduling. RoomView™ turns off all the rooms' AV systems and devices at night, and switches on the LBC's digital signage in the morning. Another Stetson "first": they implemented RoomView shortly after the software package became available, back in 2003.

Crestron e-Datalog allows the control system to register and maintain up-to-date records on AV equipment usage. Out of curiosity, Ewing ran it for a few weeks, and found out that on Friday nights, 15% of the projectors would have been left on all weekend if RoomView™ hadn't turned them off automatically.

In recent years, an upgrade and two new projects at Stetson have included Crestron technology. The school's signature building, Elizabeth Hall, was built in 1892. It does not have an elevator, and in terms of advanced technology, is best known as the first Stetson building to be wired for electricity! The John E. Johns classroom is located on the third floor of Elizabeth Hall, and 114 years after its initial construction, AV in this classroom (named after Stetson's sixth president) was enhanced by a Crestron control system, touchpanel, 3-channel audio amplifier, and RoomView connectivity.

This particular room had been the object of unexplained mishaps, including randomly disconnected cables and just-shut-off projectors popping back on for no apparent reason. Ever since the Crestron system was installed (controlling devices including a projector, DVD/VHS combo deck, and tabletop document camera) the room has been completely reliable. As a result, Ewing refers to the installation as the "Crestron Ghostbuster Package."

In addition to apparently driving away the poltergeist, Crestron helped ease the wiring and installation in this historic structure – including the placement of a projector between two paddle fans –with QuickMedia™ (QM) transport technology. QM integrates 16 separate cables into a single CAT5-type wire and delivers the full range of video, audio, and high-resolution computer signals.

In March, 2008, a digital signage system called "BizNet" was implemented in the LBC with two 65-inch LCD monitors in the building atrium, plus five 32-inch LCD displays near the elevator entrances on each floor. The system broadcasts general campus announcements; calendars of upcoming events; information on course offerings; featured programs and departments; business faculty and administration profiles; emergency information, if warranted; current date and weather, and streaming of current Wall Street news and stock market values.

Crestron control of BizNet includes automated and/or manual switching between sources, automated on-off cycles, and secure remote control via the campus network by authorized users in multiple locations. Content for the system comes from a variety of sources, including a DVD player, HD cable TV, graphics, and streaming Wall Street financial information. A common scenario is the automatic switching between digital signage graphics and streaming Wall Street financial information every fifteen minutes. To save energy and extend display life, the system is programmed to power up at 7am and power down at 9pm.

When the 22,000+ square foot $8.5 million Sage Hall Science Center at Stetson opened in January, 2009, it expanded classroom and laboratory space for science education at Stetson by 50 percent.

One standard classroom and eight teaching labs in the new science center are Crestron-controlled with individual MP2E Ethernet control systems that have built-in AV switchers. Controlled technology includes computer projection, primarily from laptops (for PowerPoint presentations and Internet source display); playback of DVDs and videotapes, and large-screen projection of science experiments and projects via a portable camera.

Each of these Sage Hall rooms has a Crestron 3-channel amplifier to support DVDs, Internet and other sources that feature audio. The teaching labs are equipped with Crestron APAD wall mount LCD controllers, and the classroom has a TPS-4L touchpanel.

Stetson has three new buildings coming on line this year, and Crestron technology will be an integral part of each one. "The Crestron systems are very, very reliable," said Ewing. "In my view, though, what makes Crestron special is that it's an organization where people are valued, which is true of Stetson as well. I expect our partnership to continue for many years to come."

BizNet

Sage Hall