In late April, the Volgenau School of Information Technology and Engineering opened the doors of its new building on the Fairfax Campus. The Engineering building is located between the Research I building and the Aquatic Center on the Southeast side of the campus. It houses all academic departments in the school. The program office for the MS in Telecommunications is now located in room 3300 of the Engineering building.

A Building for the Future

The new, state-of-the-art, 180,000-square-foot research and academic building is the result of an extensive fund-raising campaign. In keeping with Mason’s commitment to sustainability, the building is one of the first new Mason buildings designed to meet the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver standard.

Ground was broken for the building last July 17. The new building is the second largest on the Fairfax Campus and will combine academic and research space with — for the first time at Mason — corporate lease space.

The new building will be unlike any other throughout Virginia’s public university system. With 20,000 square feet of office space available for lease, the Volgenau School will continue to lead the way for the future of information technology and engineering by providing students and faculty with unique opportunities to work with area companies and participate in cutting-edge, real-world research.

The building is constructed around a central atrium. Each floor has a conference room and a student lounge to foster learning before and after class and provide space for students to study together, work on projects and interact with faculty and local high-tech businesses.

“Volgenau students are entrepreneurial and know how to think outside the box,” says Dean Griffiths. “Area employers tell us that these characteristics are difficult to find in graduates of other academic institutions. We want our students to
have the opportunity to interact with faculty members and the business professionals who will be sharing our space.”

By bringing together in one building its research endeavors, educational resources and key corporate partners, the Volgenau School will offer an immensely stimulating environment for the kind of collaboration required to resolve some of the most pressing information technology concerns, from network security and homeland security to the need for innovative and highly trained IT workers to keep the American economy competitive internationally.

“This building shows the commitment of the university and the commonwealth to provide an extraordinary facility to educate and train the best information technology professionals and engineers in Northern Virginia,” says Griffiths. “The partnership created by leasing space to corporations builds on our strength as an entrepreneurial university working with the business community. The strategic investment in research and education will lead to important technological breakthroughs.”

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