

Student Laptop Initiative aims to enhance students' technology skills

Though laptops won't be required until 2007, recommended models are available now

Kitty Campbell

Posted: 6/20/06

In development since 2005, the Student Laptop Initiative (SLI) is launching this summer, encouraging incoming freshmen to purchase a Lenovo or Apple laptop with a software package geared toward academic enhancement. Beginning Fall 2007, most freshmen will be required to purchase a laptop, with a choice of one of four models available through the program.

According to comments released by the Provost, A. Edward Uprichard, the initiative is hoped to "engage [students] in technology-enhanced learning, gaining subject knowledge while also developing stronger communication and technology skills." The recommended laptops include pre-installed software packages, with Microsoft Office Professional and Norton Antivirus, to help students improve their technology skills both in class and in their dorm rooms.

The university requirement of a laptop does not mean students must purchase their laptop through the SLI program. According to IT's website, "Students may bring non-program wireless laptops to meet the University requirement if that laptop meets the minimum standards set by the Academic Technology Coordinating Committee (ATCC)." However, there are benefits to buying one of the recommended laptops.

There are four recommended models available through the initiative - a less expensive model ("Standard") and a high-end performance model ("Power User") from each vendor. The Lenovo models are the R60 ThinkPad and the T60 ThinkPad, priced at \$1,179 and \$1,569 respectively. For Apple users, the choices are the MacBook Pro 1.83GHz (\$2,168) and the MacBook Pro 2.0GHz (\$2,668). These prices include the cost of pre-installed software at a significant discount. For comparison, an R60 ThinkPad built to the same specifications on Lenovo's website is priced at \$1,726.99 - without virus protection.

The decision of which laptop to buy should be made after consulting with the department of a student's planned major, according to Information Technology Services (ITS). For students who have not declared a major, ITS advises that most departments

on campus use Windows machines. Some departments do not have a preference. A list of declared department preferences is available online at http://its.uncg.edu/Laptop/Platform_Preference.

The level of interest in the initiative is visible this summer at the Spartan Expo, an event held in Cone Ballroom during the SOAR orientations. University departments as well as student organizations set up tables to introduce themselves to new students and parents. The table housing demos and information about the laptop initiative swarms with activity throughout the event.

Though some students were wary of the cost and unsure of the necessity of a laptop requirement when the program was unveiled last year ("Laptops required - students, IT react," Sept. 27, 2005), organizers at the SLI table say they are not hearing those concerns now. Most reactions have been "very positive," according to Veronica Norville, a member of the team behind the initiative. Despite the fact that no financial aid is currently available to help students pay for the laptops, there have not been complaints about cost so far. Judy Guard, another project team member for the initiative, said most people are "eager to buy."

"It is a good deal, a very good deal, with the programs that are included," she said.

Included in this deal is a three-year warranty for any of the models, with an option from Lenovo to upgrade to a four-year warranty; an on-campus repair center and support through 6-TECH technical support; pre-installed professional software; and accidental damage protection. These warranties do not include damage from theft, loss, or fire, so students are encouraged to talk to their parents about additional coverage from their insurance provider. Only laptops purchased through the initiative will receive support from UNCG's laptop support center.

Ownership of a recommended laptop may also streamline the process of connecting to UNCG's wireless network. This fall, wireless access is available in most classrooms as well as Ragsdale-Mendenhall, Moore-Strong, Weil-Winfield, Phillip-Hawkins, Cone, Grogan, Reynolds, and Tower Village, in the first floor common areas of each of these residence halls. Students can also connect in the EUC and the first floor of Jackson Library.

Lenovo ThinkPad models are currently available for purchase through the ITS website at <http://its.uncg.edu/Laptop/Purchase>. The Apple models are not yet available.

Detailed information about the Student Laptop Initiative is available at <http://its.uncg.edu/laptop>. For advice on purchasing a laptop, connecting to ResNET from the dorm, and important network policies, visit ResNET's website at <http://hrl.uncg.edu/resnet>.



Faculty have already begun to move their offices into the completed Humanities and Research Administration building, at Spring Garden and Forest.



Construction crews are working continuously to complete the Spring Garden Apartments by the August move-in deadline. Complete with underground parking deck, the new residence hall dwarfs Tower Village across the street.

Construction on campus: When will it end?

Some projects are nearing completion, but new ones will soon begin

Elizabeth A. Terry

Posted: 6/20/06

The days are flying off the calendar, the sun is shining and in the midst of each student's own little world is the yellow taped path - to construction. It seems that no matter where one goes on campus there are construction workers and caution tape. This ultimately means one must maneuver around the construction area and find another route to class.

In the attempt to keep up with the growing population, one of the most noticeable sites is the almost completed Maud Gatewood Studio Art Building, which stands at three stories tall. To the relief of many students, the Studio Art Building will be opening this fall for classes, and since it is in the vicinity of the Cone Building and Weatherspoon Art Museum it will create a corner section of campus for those enrolled in the art program. The new Studio Art Building is located behind the Graham Building and is scheduled to be completed on June 30, with move-in beginning July 5.

In the spring of 2005, the Anna M. Gove Health Center started renovations, and construction is still in progress in efforts to expand. The expansion will include various offices and centers, such as a pharmacy, teaching center, and counseling center, just to name a few. The Gove Health Center is located across from Moore-Strong dormitory and currently has a tunnel entrance to ensure safety from the construction in progress.

Now that the Jackson Library's connecting wing to the EUC is completed, many students find their frustration and stress from construction coming from the area near the Gove Health Center. At least with the connector wing in the EUC and Jackson Library, these students weren't woken up to the sounds of construction. With 40 members, a *Facebook* group called "Will The Construction On The Health Center Ever Stop?" can't wait until the construction finally ends. Many of those members live next to the Gove Health Center in Ragsdale dormitory, and are awakened by the noise of construction early in the morning, according to many of the complaints and also one of the tenants of the group.

According to the Director of Facilities Design and Construction, Fred Patrick, "The final inspection is June 16th and move-in begins on June 19th. Once the move-in has occurred, then the renovation of the existing building will commence and be final by [this] December."

Much to the relief of upperclassmen - with fears setting in of the new dorms on Spring Garden not being finished on time and the yearly housing crunch just a few months away - the long sought-after dorms, the Spring Garden Apartments, will be successfully completed and opening this fall, according to the Housing and Residence Life website. "All projects are on track with their completion dates," said Patrick. The Housing and Life website also states that reservations can be made for the apartments. If interested in getting a Spring Garden Apartment, one must have 30 credit hours prior to August and have lived on campus during the 2006 spring semester. For more information on the new Spring Garden Apartments contact Housing & Residence Life, online at <http://hrl.uncg.edu/newhall>.

The Jackson Library is still under construction, although not for the connecting wing to the EUC. There are renovations being made for a new chiller, chilled underground piping, in connection to the old piping. There are also repairs being made to sealants and waterproofing around the library's foundation in progress. Much of the same construction is taking place also in the Curry Building.

While the nine bridges across campus are getting parts replaced and various works done, the Graham Building is getting a total facelift, from new bricks to the installation of a new through-wall flashing system to divert moisture out of the walls, according to the construction website, as well as replacement of sealants and windows.

The Hall for Humanities and Research Administration (HHRA), on the corner of Spring Garden and Forest, was recently completed and the building will be ready for classes this fall. Many professors and faculty have already started moving their offices into the HHRA during the last two weeks.

Most of these renovations will be completed in the upcoming fall, but there are more construction projects starting this fall to take their place. In regards to safety policies and construction in the future, Patrick said, "On student safety, just use common sense. Stay away from moving equipment and construction work going on. We try hard to contain most work behind a fence, however when a project gets close to being completed the fence is removed to finish the site work.

"We are going to start new renovation projects in September 2006 and will be putting fences up then for Aycock Auditorium, McNutt, Brown, and Petty Buildings. The Alumni House will start January 2007 and an addition to the Oakland Parking Deck will start in December 2006," Patrick continued.

In reference to places to avoid, Patrick said, "Avoid just around these two buildings [Gove Health Center and Studio Art Building] and [keep in mind] there is also work going on around Curry Building, Guilford, Mary-Foust, and the new dormitory site."

A rising senior and music major, Cheshire Moon, echoed the Facebook group's reactions, but said, "From the perspective of the over all faculty, it's good....from mine, it sucks from the music major stand point....seeing the Music Building before, and [construction on] College Avenue and the bridge (near the Music Building), it seems like they took forever and a day." Construction on campus it seems is unavoidable, but

Moon later said, "At the end of the day, you still have a beautiful campus."

For more information on construction sites on campus visit www.uncg.edu/fpl.

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Nacho Libre: Demasiado Queso Mata el Nacho (Too Much Cheese Kills the Nacho)

Roger Priddy

Posted: 6/20/06

*1/2 (Out of 4), 100 Minutes, PG

"If you don't turn that off, I'm gonna leave you."

I remember someone who I once thought loved me saying those words, almost verbatim, about 45 minutes into watching *Napoleon Dynamite* on HBO. "ND" was one of those movies that everyone talked about, and it seemed like folks either really loved it or really loathed it. Because of the situation described in my opening words, I can't give a complete recap of *Nacho Libre* director Jared Hess's first film other than to say those 45 minutes I caught definitely weren't "dynamite", but they were (to me at least) interesting and quirky. *Nacho Libre* looked as if it would be equally different. It is. Unfortunately, it's also so dreadfully cheesy it could make a cheeseburger wince.

Jack Black (*King Kong*, numerous comedies) is Nacho, a lowly cook at a lowly Mexican monastery. Nacho loves the young orphans who live at the monastery, but he is frustrated with the ho-hum priestly life and aspires to something more. He wants to be a star, a "luchador" (wrestler). But the monastery and beautiful nun, Sister Encarnacion (Ana de la Reguera), whom Nacho is in love with, absolutely forbid the art of fighting. Nacho goes after his dream secretly, with the help of grimy, pint-sized sidekick Esqueleto (Hector Jimenez), who arguably is as nasty and grotesque as Black's Nacho Libre. Slapstick wrestling, eye-rolling stupidity, and more cheese and shots of Jack Black's barrel chest than any masochist could ever hope to see ensue.

I like Jack Black, and I liked the idea of him playing this part. "Nacho Libre: monk by day - wrestler extraordinaire by night," really seemed like something Black could make funny and make work. But a good idea if not executed well is a lot like a good intention. It can pave the road to hell, and that sure happens here. The movie starts off likeable enough, but it grows old real fast. And then it just gets worse and worse and worse, 'til by the end you about wish you could get in the ring and knock out Nacho Libre yourself just to put him and you out of your shared misery.

Nacho Libre is actually a lot like the portion of *Napoleon Dynamite* I saw. It's

unabashedly stupid, it's not laugh-out-loud funny, and it's extremely cheesy. The difference is, *Napoleon Dynamite* was at least somewhat real. It was identifiable. Nacho is more likeable than Napoleon, but much less believable. You didn't really like Napoleon, but you cared about him because you could sympathize with him. But Nacho Libre, the character and the movie, you just can't feel; you can't connect with them. Black is painfully over-the-top and the movie is all cheesy, mercilessly stupid style, and no substance. Nothing is developed, everything is thinner than a slice of cheese, and the only points emphasized are things that don't need to be.

And I'm all for seeing real people on the movie screen who actually have some fat and imperfections and aren't all Hollywood "so-perfectly-pretty-that-they're-ugly." Jack Black and many of his cohorts here certainly aren't specimens of physical flawlessness, that's for sure. But there's a difference between being non-Hollywood and being blatantly sick and overtly grotesque to the point of near unwatchability, and Nacho Libre crosses the "yuck line." It's an utter campfest that erects a giant cheese pile so high and thick if you were Godzilla you still couldn't look up above it or blast your way through it.

In other words, unless you're obsessed with Jack Black or know all the dialogue of *Napoleon Dynamite* by heart, avoid *Nacho Libre*. And as for the "film nazi" I spoke of in my introduction, I'm thinking about sending them a copy of *Nacho Libre* when it comes out on DVD. Vengeance is stirring. Ha, they thought *Napoleon Dynamite* was bad; *Nacho Libre* will make their mozzarella melt.

Spartan soccer stars staying sharp

Brad Howell

Posted: 6/20/06

Boys and girls of all ages wait impatiently on the sidelines of the field at Macpherson Stadium, eagerly seeking autographs from their favorite players.

UNCG star Randi Patterson is the most sought after target after scoring two goals in the Dynamo's 3-1 triumph over the Raleigh Elite in a June 10 contest.

"It's real important to come out here and have the kids watch us play," said Patterson while signing a youngster's shirt. "It's a great experience to be someone's role model and to have a positive influence on other people."

Patterson and Scott Jones are rising seniors on a UNCG squad that's coming off of two straight Sweet 16 performances.

The Carolina Dynamo play their games at Macpherson stadium in Bryan Park, just outside Greensboro in Browns Summit. The Premier Development League team plays from May through July, making for a convenient area team for Spartan players. The Dynamo roster is littered with top notch area talent from schools such as UNC, Elon, Wake Forest, NC State, Duke, and others.

Jones sat out against the Elite to rest a sore knee, but he has been a solid contributor on the squad for the past three seasons. Patterson is in his first year with the Dynamo, and has quickly done what he does best - score goals. He has 11 through eight games to lead the team, including a hat trick in the Dynamo's most recent game, a 4-3 victory over Cape Cod.

Carolina is a perfect 9-0-0 on the season, but the team's record isn't the most important focus for the players.

"It's really about getting in shape for the school year," said Jones, who is a two-time All-American selection for the Spartans. "Without a league like this, it's hard for college guys to find somewhere to play around here."

Patterson feels that it provides an opportunity to brush up on his skills.

"Pretty much everything in my game needs improvement and playing in the summer is definitely going to bring up my game for the season."

Kids and adults alike fill the Macpherson stadium on a regular basis, as the Dynamo offer various promotions for every home game. Of course it never hurts to have two local stars on your side.

"Since Randi and I are from UNCG they recognize us because we're kind of the hometown guys," said Jones. "It's a pretty cool feeling."

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