

Faculty prove more in touch with tablets than younger generation

Jeff Stern
Online Managing Editor

While the public meets Apple's product announcements with a huge amount of excitement, few students at Elon University seem to care about the new iPad's launch last Friday.

Tablets such as the iPad allow for more possibilities in schools: e-textbooks, productivity and note-taking, interactive learning apps.

"What I like about them is the instant on and the battery life," said Scott Hildebrand, assistant director of Teaching and Learning Technologies. "I take my tablet when I'm going to a meeting or traveling. Most everything I use syncs with the cloud and it's all right here."

Hildebrand is behind several initiatives to incorporate tablets into teaching and learning, including a monthly tablet user group for faculty members, short and long-term tablet rental programs and working to bring tablets into the classroom.

"We noticed more and more tablets showing up on campus and we were just trying to get an idea on how they were being used," Hildebrand said. "It's really great having users show up and say 'These are the apps that I found this week, here's how they're helping me.'"

But when it comes to tablet usage on campus, it is far greater among faculty members than students.

"We haven't bridged the student divide yet," Hildebrand said of the user group. "We haven't seen a lot of them being used by students yet."

A non-scientific online survey of 43 random Elon students showed that just 32.6 percent of respondents did own a

tablet, the overwhelming majority of those being the iPad 2.

"I would expect there to be more than there have been so far," senior Casey Claude said, who got an iPad 2 for Christmas. "But iPads are new still, but as they continue to get cheaper, I think we will."

Joel Hollingsworth, professor of computing sciences, teaches a Mobile Computing course, in which his students get to build applications for smartphones and tablets. Hollingsworth is not in the user group, but has also seen them used infrequently by students in the classroom.

"Why don't students, instead of carrying around a backpack full of books to class, carry around an iPad or something and pull that out?" asked Hollingsworth.

While the tablet provides applications useful for students, materials students require are often not available.

Hollingsworth said he believes the slow adoption of tablets by students is because of textbook publishers being slower to produce their content in digital format.

"It hasn't caught on as fast as we thought it would, mainly because students don't have the devices," said Randy Piland, faculty fellow for technology, in a recent interview for The Swing.

Apple releases the iPad HD March 16. The new device sports a better camera, 4G-connectivity and a new screen.

Hollingsworth said he is most interested in the new iPad's better screen resolution, which, at 2048x1536 pixels, is higher than most high-



GLORIA SO | Staff Photographer
Scott Hildebrand, assistant director of Teaching and Learning Technologies is leading the charge to incorporate tablets into Elon's classrooms. His efforts include a monthly tablet user group.

definition TVs.

"It's so high, which means the types of images you're going to be able to put out on that are going to be amazing," Hollingsworth said.

But even with the introduction of a new iPad, students don't seem sold on tablets. Not one survey respondent said they would definitely purchase the new iPad.

"Most students are coming with their laptops, coming with their phones, and they don't really need that third device in between," Hildebrand said. "Someone made a comment earlier this week that their grandmother adopted

the iPad sooner than they had."

Although Claude uses her tablet to take notes in class, she said she is still surrounded by the laptops of other students.

Even with evolving tablet technology there is still a need for the personal computer, according to Hildebrand.

Ninety-five percent of the survey respondents agree if students could pick just one device to have with them at college, they would still pick the computer over the tablet.

While there may be a day when tablets replace computers, it doesn't seem to be in the immediate future.

Law students, school to benefit from externship opportunity

Hannah DeLaCourt
Senior Reporter

The Elon University School of Law will soon be able to offer more externship opportunities for students in the Washington, D.C. area.

The law school recently announced its partnership with The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars, which will provide law students with legal externship opportunities in D.C.

The Washington Center was founded 35 years ago and pairs undergraduates with internship positions in the D.C. area.

Margaret Kantlehner, associate professor of law, is the director of externships, preceptors and capstone leadership experiences. Kantlehner said Elon's undergraduate program has worked with The Washington Center for many years, but an opportunity opened up for Elon to get involved in the legal environment.

"We will send students to D.C. for a residency working with government lawyers and (non-governmental organization) governmental lawyers

for 36 hours a week supervised by an attorney," she said.

Students will take 12 to 15 credit hours at The Washington Center, which will satisfy their elective credit for graduation. But, as with study abroad, the students will have to plan ahead to make sure they can be off campus for the time needed for the externship.

Participants in the program must be second-year or third-year law students.

"We are looking for students who have a good academic standing, good character, who will represent us well, who are interested in governmental law and in the national prospective of law," Kantlehner said.

As the director of externships, Kantlehner will travel to D.C. occasionally, but Courtney Dredde, an adjunct professor and program adviser for the Washington Legal Externship Program at The Washington Center, will serve as an onsite faculty member.

Dredde will be the constant source of information for students and will also teach the externship seminar that will meet once a week.

"We are very pleased to have her on the ground," Kantlehner said. "She brings a great knowledge of D.C. and placement there."

The experience in D.C. will be beneficial to students in numerous ways because it would add to their resumes and cover letters, and it is something to talk about in their future interviews, Dredde said.

"If (they are) interested in working in D.C., it gets their foot in the door," Dredde said. "If they aren't interested in D.C., it also gives them practical experience."

Students have expressed a lot of interest so far, Kantlehner said. The law school will send at least 10 students to D.C. this summer and at least 10 in the fall and the spring. Since the law program is still new, sending 10 students is almost 10 percent of the law school's student population.

Second-year law student Meg Sparger is one of the students who has shown interest in the program. Sparger said the externship program is a phenomenal addition to the law school curriculum.

She said she thinks students will not only gain practical, on-the-job experience with a federal agency, but will also be exposed to the realities of the work week in Washington, a city where law is particularly relevant.

But Sparger also sees this program affecting Elon's law school as a whole.

"On a macro level, even students who do not participate in the externship program will benefit indirectly from Elon's relationship with The Washington Center," she said. "While Elon certainly has a regional presence, its role as a facilitator for a nationwide program will better the law school's reputation and hopefully bring some well-deserved notoriety."

Fast Facts: Washington Center Externship

- Based in Washington, D.C.
- Pairs undergraduates with internship positions
- Students take 12 to 15 credit hours
- Students work 36 hours per week
- 10 students from Elon University School of Law can participate
- Students gain on-the-job experience with a federal agency

SGA conference attendance brings student voice into national dialogue

Melissa Kansky
News Editor

Their job is to represent the student body. Immersing themselves in a national dialogue adds Elon University's voice to the equation.

"I think it gives us a stronger voice as a leader on campus because we are supposed to be the voice of the students," said Sam Warren, Student Government Association executive president. "Darien and I will now be able to speak from multiple sides."

Warren and Darien Flowers, SGA executive president-elect, gained further insight into American Israeli relations and the conflict in the Middle East at the 2012 American Israel Public Affairs Committee Policy Conference in Washington D.C. AIPAC invited student government leaders throughout

the country to the conference March 3, of which 217 attended.

"They see us as the future leaders in the political system and so it was to help us learn about the cause and AIPAC in general," Warren said.

President Barack Obama, Israeli President Shimon Peres and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu were among the speakers presenting at the conference.

AIPAC, a group dedicated to establishing positive American-Israeli relationships, invited the students in hopes that they will apply their experiences at the conference to life on their college campuses, according to Warren.

"Typically, when we think about sending people to conferences, not just from an SGA standpoint, but from special allocations, we look at how it will impact Elon and what they will

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We want to make sure Elon is a campus welcoming of all religions and nationalities.

-Sam Warren
SGA EXECUTIVE
PRESIDENT

bring back," Warren said.

When Warren realized the conference took place during SGA's transition period, he asked them to extend the invitation to Flowers, and both students were invited to attend.

"Because I am leaving soon, I wouldn't impact Elon in the way that they needed it," he said.

For Flowers, the opportunity to listen to Obama and Peres speak and interact with other students translates to Elon student engagement, he said.

Understanding a new perspective of the conflict enables him to discuss the issue with students that share the same sentiment as the Israel advocacy group, Flowers said.

"This was an opportunity for me to hear one group's position on an issue and become more informed about it," Flowers said. "But as we learn at a liberal arts institute, there are multiple sides to an issue and multiple ways to approach an issue."

Warren said he viewed the conference as a way to further develop religious life at Elon as the university moves to promote more inter-faith dialogue.

"We can put the knowledge Darien and I got from this experience into the equation,"

Warren said.

Although the conference promoted positive relations between the United States and Israel and encouraged participants to align themselves with the Jewish state, Warren and Flowers refrained from determining the university's position on the issue.

A student body president in attendance asked student leaders to sign a commitment that they would cultivate a pro-Israeli campus. Provided SGA procedure, Flowers and Warren would need Senate approval before taking such action. Furthermore, the SGA representatives did not want to isolate Elon students that do not share the same view concerning the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"We want to make sure Elon is a campus welcoming of all religions and nationalities," Warren said.