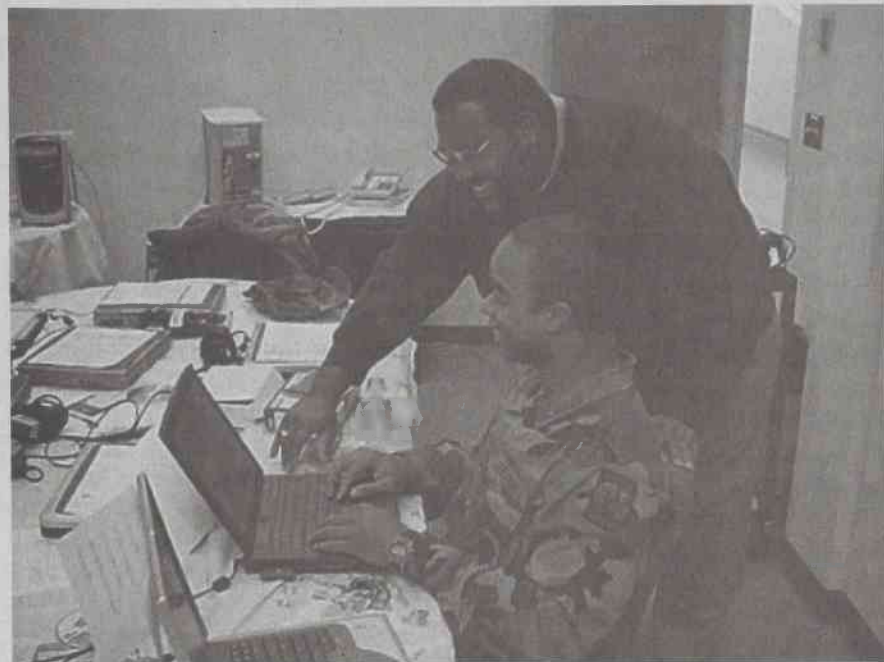


CAMPUS NEWS

Campus receives wireless Internet access



Mark A. McKinley
Network Administrator Tim Barclift instructs Jermaine Purdie on how to use the wireless network.

Mark A. McKinley
mamckinley@adelphia.net
Staff Writer

An important step in bringing 21st century technology to Elizabeth City State University was made in the spring semester by offering wireless Internet access to its students. Wireless access allows the connection of the Internet through radio-frequency signals instead of traditional copper cable. This allows an area, such as a dormitory, to easily be "wired" without having to physically install network connections. Since less labor and material are used, this is a cheaper solution.

According to Derrick L. Wilkins, Director of Academic Computing and End User Support Services, wireless access is located "at strategic points on campus." These locations are the dor-

mitories, the University Center, the Commuter Center, the 1st floor of the Jimmy R. Jenkins Science Building, and the Information Technology Center. Future plans include adding Moore Hall, Griffin Hall, Lester Hall, and the Chancellor's Boardroom. Kuchumbi Hayden, Network Engineer, said that there is, "0% droppage," because of precise placement of the wireless access points, devices that broadcast the signal. There are two wireless access points on every dormitory floor to give ample coverage. In large open areas, such as the University Center and the Commuter Center, only one wireless access point is needed since there is less structural interference.

Having wireless access points installed throughout the campus is only one part of connecting to the Internet. A wireless network card is needed for stu-

dents to receive the signal. This network card is installed in a desktop computer or laptop and allows students to connect to the Internet. Tim Barclift, Network Administrator, supervises the installation and setup of the wireless network cards.

In order to access the new technology, students must purchase the wireless network cards and make an appointment with Barclift, who will set up their computers. The wireless network cards, "range from \$50 to \$70," Barclift said. During the setup procedure, the student's computer is scanned for viruses and spyware to ensure a fast connection to the network. This procedure can take several hours to several days to complete. Students are provided with a free copy of Norton's Anti-Virus and the computer is set up to automatically download information to keep the it protected from new viruses.

So far this year, 61 computers have been set up to use the wireless internet access and 12 are in the process of being connected. There has been such a great student demand that a conference room in the Information Technology Center has been converted to set up the computers. Other members of the staff have also been helping with the setup procedure.

There have also been some parts of the wireless Internet process that need to be monitored. Students should be cautious of what is downloaded into the computer. Also, there have been problems using the Blitz brand of wireless network cards. This brand has not been able to access the wireless network.

For more information on wireless Internet access, contact Tim Barclift, Network Administrator at 335-3531.

Low tuition bolsters enrollment

Elizabeth A. Martins
eamartins@mail.ecsu.edu
Staff Writer

New students, including freshmen and transfer students, are enrolling at Elizabeth City State University and many are taking advantage of the North Carolina Scholarships and the university's low tuition costs.

According to Mr. Grady Deese, the director of admissions and recruitment, the tuition and fee costs at ECSU are cheaper than those of other schools around the piedmont area including Fayetteville State University, East Carolina University, and Methodist College.

According to recent statistics, ECSU is becoming more diverse.

Its student body includes Asian Americans, Africans, and an increase in its white students. Even though the university is a historically black institution, it is welcoming to many different types of people.

"The past year was indeed a special time in the history of ECSU," Chancellor Mickey Burnim stated in a spring 2004 publication. "We offered students more than 35 undergraduate degrees with a new bachelor's degree program in pharmaceutical science and a new master's degree in biology. By increasing our offerings and improving our living and learning environment, we were able to boost our enrollment to 2,308 students, the highest enrollment in the history of the university."

2004 Calendar

February	27	Friday
		Departmental Black History Displays End 9am JSC Lobby in room 138
	28	Saturday
		CIAA Tournament Ends Parents in Cyberspace 9am Griffin Hall room 191 Lyceum Series: "Parallel Journeys End" 8am, Fine Arts Gallery
	2	Tuesday
		Sex, Drugs, & Alcohol Presentation 7pm, Bias Hall Lobby Vikings Baseball vs. Apprentice school
	3	Wednesday
		113th Founders Day Convocation 10am, Floyd L. Robinson Auditorium Sex Education Presentation 7pm, Butler Hall Lobby
	4	Thursday
		Intro to MS Publisher 2000 3pm, ITC Building Room 142 Great Decision Lecture Series: Weapons of Mass Destruction: What Now After 9/11? 2pm, G.R. Little Library room 203 Lady Vikings Tennis vs. Bowie State University 1:30pm
	5	Friday
		Stress Management Presentation 8pm, Doles Hall Lobby Vikings Golf: CIAA Western Division Tourney Begins
	6	Saturday
		Mid-term Week Begins Viking Baseball vs. Bluefield Stae University Lady Vikings Tennis vs. Saint Pauls College 1pm Lady Vikings Softball vs. Fayetteville State University
	7	Sunday
		Vikings Golf: CIAA Western Division Tourney Ends
	8	Monday
		Lady Vikings Tennis vs. Shaw University 1pm
	9	Tuesday
		ROTC Spring Awards Ceremony 2pm, ROTC Building Great Decision Lecture Series: Europe Today: room 203 Computer Workshops for Farm Families 6pm, ITC Building, room 110 Drug Awareness Presentation 7pm, Mitchell-Lewis Lobby Health Awareness Presentation 7pm, Bias Hall Lobby Viking Baseball vs. Longwood College
	10	Wednesday
		Spring Break Pledge Drive 11:30 am, Bedell Hall Cafeteria
	11	Thursday
		Music Student Recital 2pm, Floyd L. Robinson Auditorium Lady Vikings Softball vs. Winston-Salem State 1pm
	12	Friday
		Mid-term Week Ends University Choir Spring Concert Begins 8am, Location: TBA
	15	Monday
		Spring Break Begins Lady Vikings Tennis vs. Johnson C. Smith University 1pm
	16	Tuesday
		Vikings Baseball vs. Longwood College 1pm Computer Workshops for Farm Families 6pm, ITC Building, Rm 110
	18	Thursday
		Health Fair 10am, Caldwell/ Hoffer Infirmary
	19	Friday
		Vikings Baseball vs. Shaw University
	20	Saturday
		Spring Break Ends Lady Vikings Softball vs. Winston-Salem State 1pm

Modernized Web page designed for students

Travis Hubbard
thecompass@hotmail.com
Staff Writer

Damond Nollan, the university's Web Master, revealed Elizabeth City State University's re-designed web page in early December, but improvements are still being made.

"My goal in the new design was to produce a more functional site that could be easily navigable by the various groups who visit the site," he said. Nollan believes that the new website is more interactive, opposed to the old website that was full of needless pages to read. Nollan said the new website should be of assistance to all audiences whereas the old website was of more benefit to professors.

"I'm trying to make the website a home for students as well as staff," said Nollan.

The website is also equipped with new features such as

student news. This feature should allow students to keep up with events going on around campus. Student news will not only consist of calendars with test dates, but also information about upcoming parties and events.

Another addition to the website is the prospective students feature created for students interested in life at ECSU. The prospective student section includes information on academics, admissions, housing, and financial aid.

The alumni feature is also an addition that is expected to be greatly appreciated. It consists of alumni announcements and upcoming alumni events.

"Navigation is a lot easier," said Nollan. There are not as many links as there were in the old site. Hubert Leggett, an associate professor, agrees that the navigation is a



lot easier, but has concerns about the position of Blackboard.

"I feel that the old layout was much easier to reach Blackboard," Leggett said. "The new design has a few extra clicks." Leggett said his overall assessment of the site was good, and he felt that the finish product would be of high quality.

Although the new website has been modernized and improved the most questionable feature of the website still remains; listing the phone and room numbers of board-

ing students.

"I guess it's kind of like a phone book," Nollan said. "I really don't see the danger in it."

However many students disagree, particularly females.

"I feel that it should only be accessible by ECSU students," Demetrus Rorie, a sophomore Computer Science major said. Nollan said that if anyone feels discomfort with having his or her name in the display, he should complete a name removal form obtained from Bruce Boyd in housing.

Internships teach experience

DeTra L. Stith
depot9@hotmail.com
Copy Editor

The ad for the job states that the company is looking for someone with experience. You have the other qualifications which include a degree and a high grade point average, but the most important qualification, experience, is what you are lacking.

"Internships are very important for students. It gives them hands on experiences in the field they are majoring in," Brutus Jackson, director of career services, said.

Students are also introduced to the political climate of the business world and can learn how to network. Often assistance in the form of monetary pay is given, unless you are working with a non-profit organization.

"In the classroom you are taught theory so you need practical application added to it," Jackson said.

Students who work with a particular company will find that after graduation they are most likely to find employment with that company or

another one. It is a golden opportunity and Jackson feels that most students should have at least one internship before graduation.

"Internships are very important because employers rarely want to take chances on people without work experience, but the only way people get jobs is if they've had internships. They [internships] are a building block and a great foundation for your career," Timothy Lewis, a junior Business major, said.

"We don't have enough students with a 2.0-2.5 grade point average (g.p.a.) taking advantage in order for them to gain the benefits in Career Services," said Jackson.

Every student who graduates in May will not have a 3.0 g.p.a. or higher, so these students will have needed an internship.

"These students will need an internship just as bad as a man who needs a heart transplant," Jackson said.

"When you don't have an internship, it is almost like you are coming fresh out of high school, that is just how competitive it is," Lewis said.

Jackson says there are no negatives and no downsides to internships and he encourages

everyone to get involved, because he can help you, but he can't force you to take advantage. He says internships are about eliminating the doubts and putting in its place a positive can do type of attitude.

A student, Joanelle Baptiste interned at National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO) through the Department of Veteran Affairs.

"I learned a lot and a gained a lot of experience as well as a wide range of people to network with from different cultures," Baptiste, a junior Applied Mathematics major, said.

Baptiste had worked in the Information Technology Center (ITC) with databases before interning and said that her internship helped her understand the practical application of her education and NAFEO didn't expect her to know everything. They showed her what to do.

At Career Services you can learn how to dress, display proper body language, and interview for an internship. Workshops are also given on resume writing, interviewing tips, and networking.

For more information contact Brutus Jackson or Sandra Gibson at Career Services at H.L. Trigg Building in Room 103.