

Campus News

Technology advancing like wildfire at WSSU

Jerrod X. Johnson
STAFF REPORTER

In Japan, electronic sensors are placed in teddy bears to help care for the elderly. When the bear asks its human companion a question, its sensor decides whether to call a nursing assistant, depending on the elderly person's response time. A person can buy groceries, send mail and pay bills without ever leaving the computer. In Howard County, N.C., a young woman named Claudia Mitchell recently got a bionic arm that operates via her mental commands and can sense both the heat and the pressure of a handshake.

Technology has grown in leaps and bounds in the past couple of years, and WSSU is no exception to the trend. There is even talk of someday wearing computers in a headband, with thoughts flowing directly from one person's brain over a network directly into another person's mind.

It is true that technology has improved significantly throughout the years and has altered the course of society in many ways. Whether it is the birth of the World Wide

Web, countless health-related innovations or the creation of things once thought limited to the world of science-fiction, there is no doubt that technology has influenced life.

Yet a question must be asked: Is this ever-widening field growing beyond our ability to properly handle it? Is technology evolving at a level we can't handle, leaving us in the dust? In short, is technology going too far, too fast?

Some WSSU students believe that technology has gone overboard already, without our being able to use it properly, and paving the way for such problems as identity theft.

"Technology has gone too far; computers do everything for us and we can't do for ourselves," said Jasmine Sams.

Dr. Vincent Snipes, Interim Director of the Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education, agrees with that statement. "Some things are kind of scary because there is a lack of privacy today. People can now Google your name and find out a lot of stuff about you," he said. "Based on what you buy online, people can also find out

information about you. I don't even like to use online services that much because of the possibility of identity theft."

Others think that the technology itself is not a potential hazard, but it is the over-reliance on it that can cause problems. Moreover, the common and varied usage of technology makes people dependent on computers for everything, which can pose to be a problem when technology cannot perform for any number of reasons.

"Technology is good, but it's also making us lazy," said Kimberly Oldham, a student. "Instead of mailing a letter via the post office, we do it by e-mail. There should be some limitations."

WSSU student Pete Paul had this to add: "Technology is making us a little lazy because there's nothing we can't do. A few years ago, we used to vacuum the floors ourselves, but now you can buy something that'll do it for you."

When asked about WSSU's technological future, Snipes answered, "In 20 years, there will be more online and long-distance courses; it would prove to be more

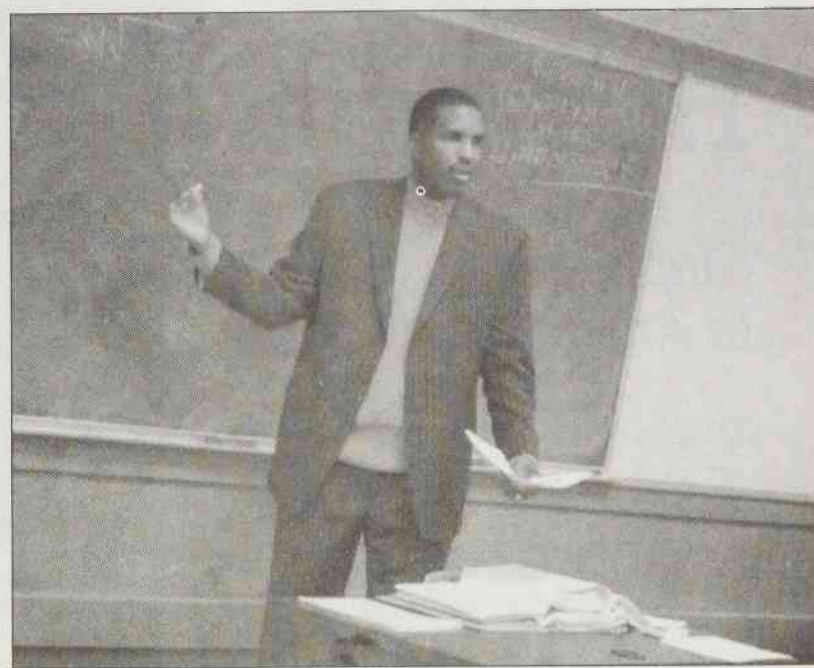


Photo courtesy of Media Relations

Dr. Vincent Snipes, math instructor, is an advocate for technology.

convenient and make it so students wouldn't have to fight traffic.

Although we have a lot of technology, a lot of people are not up on it or take it for granted."

As a member of a committee for more online courses, Snipes was

quick to add that he didn't think this would work for all classes.

"Some people have trouble with math, for instance. People will need to have that face-to-face interaction.

An online course won't be able to simulate everything," he said.



Photo by Sharrod Patterson

New "no smoking" policy implemented for dorms.

Students caught smoking in dorms face stiff penalties

Chris Bryant
STAFF REPORTER

According to the 2006-07 residential handbooks, smoking is prohibited in three of the eight residential dorms on WSSU's campus. While smoking is not permitted in any of the other buildings, there are five non-traditional resident dorms where smoking is allowed.

A student who is caught smoking a tobacco product initially receives a verbal warning from a resident assistant. According to the residential handbook and the WSSU website, the second time a

student is caught smoking in his or her room, he or she will receive a fine. The price paid in fines will cost WSSU students much more than the price they pay for a carton of cigarettes.

A student can be placed on housing probation if he or she is constantly found violating rules that are set in the residential handbook or inhabiting a smoke-filled room while possessing smoke-related paraphernalia. Those residents will, with no questions asked, be required to appear in front of the Office of Judicial Affairs.

Due to diversity among the student body, the overall opinion about smoking in the dorms differs from person to person. Senior Wilson Hall resident assistant, Danielle Rogers, said she has no problem with students who smoke. "You have to be hard on the students from the first day mainly because the students here feel they can get over on authority and not have to follow the rules set for everybody," she said. Rogers, a non-smoker, says enforcing the smoking policy in Wilson Hall is not hard at all. She hopes that the university never reverses its decision on smoking in traditional dorms, like Wilson, mainly because students who have medical problems are placed in Wilson.

Linda Inman, Director of Housing and Residence Life, is constructing a committee of students who will be able to make decisions on issues such as smoking in dorm rooms. She also brought up the point that due to how the buildings are made, the decision for traditional housing may never change. In the event of a fire, the entire building may be lost. So smoking is not allowed in the new dorms, and may never be allowed.

For some, Homecoming may interfere with mid-term exams

Trygeania Dowell
STAFF REPORTER

Homecoming is here to stay, and the students are out to play. But with many students planning on attending Homecoming this year, will the highly anticipated game interfere with their studies?

As far as the costs, the prices seem pretty reasonable if you are a student attending WSSU. For example, admission to the Will Downing concert, which is directed more to students and alumni who like jazz, is \$37.50 per person. The WSSU Be True Homecoming Concert 2006 featuring rapper Ludacris, for students and alumni who like hip-hop, is \$24.50.

However, for those wanting to attend with family and friends, the prices are higher for guests. The Ludacris concert for the general public is \$32.50 and \$37.50 per person for the Will Downing concert.

With all the excitement of Homecoming, there is one downfall. Homecoming starts a week before mid-terms and ends on Sunday, Oct. 8, with a worship service at St. Peter's World Outreach, leaving little time for studying. Sophomore Grant Fulton,



Photo by Sharrod Patterson

Festivities may take a toll on students' studies during Homecoming week.

19, does not think it is fair that Homecoming is near mid-terms.

"This is the first time in three years that Homecoming has been held near mid-term exams," said Theo Howard, Assistant Vice Chair of Campus Life and Chair of Homecoming Committee. The Athletic Department determines when Homecoming will take place, he explained, and this year the Homecoming football

game between WSSU and Howard is scheduled for Oct. 7. That is a lot earlier than last year's game which was scheduled Oct. 23, after mid-term exams.

According to Howard, there have been some changes in the Athletic Department this year, which leads to a tight schedule.

A tight schedule which students should be mindful of when preparing for mid-term exams.

Plenty of good times offered throughout Homecoming week

Tamika Green and Terri Day
COPY EDITOR AND STAFF REPORTER

Homecoming Week Festivities Sunday, October 1

Get ready to start your week off right with a gospel concert. Get wired and inspired by performances by Myron Butler, The Lights of Zion Mime Ministry, WSSU and WFU Gospel Choirs, Focus and Voices of Art. The concert starts at 6 p.m., and will be held in K.R. Williams Auditorium. Free for WSSU students and \$5 for general admission.

Also, be sure to keep your Sunday evening open for the "Screen on the Green" drive-in movie at 9 p.m. Head down to the Practice Field, and don't forget the snacks! For ticket information or questions call Homecoming Coordinator Office of Campus Life 336-750-3356.

Monday, October 2

"I ain't going nowhere, it's time for the comedy show!" Why watch Comic View Monday night when you can have your very own comedy experience right here at WSSU? Come out and see comedians Rob Stapleton, Ms. B-Phlat, Rodman, and Co-Coa Brown. The show will be held in K.R. Williams Auditorium, and

will begin at 7:30 p.m. Students, get your tickets in advance for \$5, or \$7 at the door. General admission is \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. Remember, if you sit in the front you will get called out!

Tuesday, October 3

If you like the spoken word, you'll love the Poetry Slam Contest Tuesday afternoon at 4 p.m. in the plaza. And don't forget about the Street Ball All-Star Tour later that evening at 7:30 p.m. in the Gaines Center. WSSU students pay \$3, any student I.D. will get you in for \$5, and the general public will be admitted for \$10.

Wednesday, October 4

Come out and support your 2006-2007 Royal Court at Coronations starting at 7:30 p.m. in the K.R. Williams Auditorium. Make sure to dust off those formal dresses and tuxedos later that evening for a night to remember. The Royal Ball will be held immediately after Coronation in the Anderson Center McNeil Ballroom.

Thursday, October 5

Come on out and enjoy an evening of music

and fun at the Yard Fest Concoction! This is bound to be an exciting event. It will be held in the Thompson Center Plaza from 6 to 9 p.m.

Friday, October 6

The classic pep rally gets a WSSU makeover at the Ram Rally! Come to the Breezeway at noon to get hype and show your love for the team.

The Ram Carnival will follow, taking place from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Thompson Center Plaza. Prepare to have some fun, old school style, and show your Ram spirit.

Don't forget about the step show, which will begin at 7 p.m. Preorder tickets for \$7, or buy them at the door for \$10. This exciting staple showcasing African traditions is bound to be a 'foot stomping' good time.

Saturday, October 7

Wake up early and enjoy a good, old-fashioned parade. Starting at 10 a.m., the parade will feature Miss WSSU, Mr. RAM, and the Kings, Queens and escorts of various clubs on campus. Be sure to wave to your favorite ones!

Later that day, former Miss WSSU's and Mr. Ram's will gather together for the Royal Reunion Luncheon at noon. This is an invita-

tion-only event.

Everyone's favorite part of Homecoming—the football game—will begin at 2 p.m. at Bowman Gray Stadium. Come out and cheer for your Rams, watch the cheerleaders do their thing and listen to the band play!

Ludacris plus Young Jock equals one crunk Homecoming Concert! It is scheduled to start at 8 p.m., and will take place at the Lawrence Joel Coliseum. WSSU students pay \$24.50, and \$32.50 for the general public.

If you don't plan on attending the concert, make your way over to the Plaza for the DJ in the Plaza event, which will take place from 6 to 10 p.m. Snap your fingers and do your step to your favorite songs.

Faculty and staff, you have not been forgotten. There will be a Will Downing Concert at 8 p.m. in K.R. Williams Auditorium. There will also be special guests comedian Rodney Perry and singer Maria Howell. The cost is \$37.50 in advance, and \$40 the day of the show.

Sunday, October 8

Close your weekend of festivities with a worship service at St. Peter's World Outreach Center at 10 a.m.