

# Professors pilot classroom computer program

By Brad Gunton  
Old Gold and Black Reporter

Approximately 20 university professors are participating in a pilot project to test a computer program for use with their classes.

The program, called CourseInfo, is a collection of various utilities that are designed to help professors organize and manage their classes. In addition to creating lesson plans, CourseInfo allows professors to administer online quizzes, which can then be automatically graded and put directly into a gradebook, and to create discussion groups for their students.

CourseInfo is being considered as a possible replacement of the Lotus Notes Template, which performed similar functions last year. According to Rob McCartney, a systems administrator, Lotus Notes was initially used but participation waned as the novelty

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Rob McCartney  
Systems administrator

wore off and it proved troublesome to upgrade. Also, the campus e-mail switched from Lotus to Netscape.

"The main e-mail was Lotus, so it made sense to use it for the main academic tool as well," McCartney said.

CourseInfo was one of several course shell products that were considered to replace the Lotus Notes Template.

"We liked it the best," McCartney said. "Now we're

testing to see if faculty like using it in practice, because on paper they all look good."

Although CourseInfo has been used to give assignments and administer quizzes, it is intended to act only as a complement to the normal classroom setting.

"We don't want something to replace the classroom experience, but rather to keep kids involved outside of class," McCartney said.

At this point, CourseInfo is a pilot project, and it is not supported by the university. If the faculty members participating in the program find it to be useful, then it might be more widespread in upcoming years.

Claudia Thomas, an associate dean of the college and a professor of English, said that although she has not yet tried all of CourseInfo's capabilities, she has found it useful to give out assignments, send e-mails and receive student papers.

"I think that when all the bugs are out, it will be very

useful," Thomas said. "I like the enhanced communication the course shell provides, and I think my students find it handy, too."

On the other hand, Miles Silman, an assistant professor of biology, disliked the course shell and decided to stop using it. He said that numerous server problems and other glitches made CourseInfo impractical, and he has instead been using his own Web site.

Freshman Justin Reimer has been using the course shell to take quizzes for his seminar.

"It has the possibility of being convenient, but there are some things they need to work out," Reimer said.

The first feedback meeting concerning CourseInfo will occur around the middle of the semester. McCartney said that it is too early to tell if it will become more widespread in the future.

"So far, this has been fairly successful, but it still has some problems as well," McCartney said.

## POLICE BEAT

### Organization found illegally storing alcohol in Kitchin

A university organization was found illegally storing alcoholic beverages in a lounge area of Kitchin House.

The alcohol was discovered at 2:39 p.m. Feb. 12.

The incident was forwarded to Harold Holmes, an associate vice president and the dean of student services.

### Theft

A student's computer, backpack and textbooks were stolen between 5:45 p.m. and 6 p.m. Feb. 8 in Calloway Hall. The student left the items, worth about \$3,800, unattended on a bench.

A student reported his wallet, containing \$80, was stolen between 7 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Feb. 10. The wallet was in a pair of pants the student left in a fitness center storage area.

Several items were removed from a student's jacket that was left unattended in Benson University Center between 10:15 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Feb. 11. The items included a wallet, the wallet's contents and \$40.

Several items were stolen from a student's purse between 3:30 a.m. and 7 a.m. Feb. 12 in Piccolo Residence Hall. The items included a wallet, the wallet's contents, \$20 and a utility knife.

### Damage

An art project on Magnolia Quad, consisting of plastic utensils stuck into the

ground, was damaged between 11 p.m. Feb. 7 and 8 a.m. Feb. 8. People were pulling the utensils out of the ground.

Tires on two vehicles were damaged by a sharp object left in the Polo Residence Hall parking lot between 8 p.m. Feb. 9 and 8 a.m. Feb. 12.

### Miscellaneous

Two students were involved in an argument between noon and 12:39 p.m. Feb. 10 at Student Apartments. The incident was forwarded to the dean's office.

A student living in Palmer Residence Hall received a harassing phone call at 11:45 a.m. Feb. 11.

A student did not pay an \$11 taxi fare after the driver returned the student to campus. The incident occurred around 4:10 a.m. Feb. 12. The student was later identified. The incident was reported to the dean.

University Police handled 49 calls from Feb. 8 to Feb. 14, including 10 incidents and investigations and 38 requests for service.

## WORLD WIDE

### Alabama women unite for legalization of vibrators

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — Reacting to an Alabama state law passed last year that outlawed strip clubs and banned the sale of sex toys, a group of women filed a lawsuit to make vibrators legally available for sale.

Sherri Williams, one of the plaintiffs on hand, spoke on her own behalf as owner of Loving Enterprises Inc.

"They set out to eliminate strip clubs, but along the way they snuck in sex toys. Not only did they take away your entertain-

ment, but when they were done they also took away your right to entertain yourself," Williams said.

Courtney Tarver, who represented the state, objected to Williams' claim, saying that only the sale — not the use — of vibrators was prohibited under the law.

### Religious group burns O.J. Simpson memorabilia

LOS ANGELES — Hundreds gathered in Los Angeles Feb. 17 for a demonstration staged by a quasi-religious group in which

\$430,000 of recently auctioned objects that once belonged to O.J. Simpson were burned or destroyed for "symbolic reasons."

The demonstration was organized by Shadowgov.com, a religious body opposed to many forms of government.

Among the items destroyed in the demonstration were Simpson's certificate of induction into the Football Hall of Fame, his Heisman Trophy and several jerseys bearing Simpson's name from his collegiate and professional career.

"These old jerseys covered O.J. as he ran for yards, but an even older lawyer's trick covered O.J. when he ran for justice," Enyart said.

The money raised by the auction will go towards the \$32 million Simpson owes the families of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman.

Compiled from News Services.



Kirsten Nantz/Old Gold and Black

### Stick it to 'em!

Freshman Anne Skillman warms up for lacrosse practice. Skillman plays for the women's club lacrosse team, the winner of the Outstanding Club Sports Team of the semester for the past two semesters. The women played two games this past weekend, losing against Limestone College, which is ranked in Division II lacrosse, and crushing Greensboro College, also a Division II team. These Deacs face off against Greensboro again 3 p.m. Feb. 21 on Poteat Field.

## Sportsline

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university does not own the facility that the men's and women's basketball teams play in a condition which Brown and others believe leaves students at the mercy of the LJVM Coliseum's Winston-Salem owners.

"The seating arrangements are unfair to students, we have to pay for parking and the school has to hire security personnel," Brown said.

"There are so many things wrong that I can't just summarize them in one sentence... worst of all though, I think, is that we have to drive anywhere to watch our own team play. We should have a stadium on campus"

Brown remained skeptical about the impact the program would have on administration, however.

"We view (the administration) as out of touch right now with what it means to be an ACC school with an ACC type playing facility, and at this point we don't even want to try appealing to them. We just hope that eventually they will come around to see things as they are."

In addition to Reynolda Campus callers, several out-of-state supporters of Deacon athletics including alumni and others with a vested interest in the university from Minnesota, Virginia, South Carolina and Illinois contacted the show.

Although hosts accepted donations to a fund which could one day be applied towards the building of an on-campus arena, the token effort were seen by Brown as symbolic.

Current plans call for the \$1,000 that Brown estimates will be collected from pledges to be put into a trust fund that could be augmented by future television campaigns.

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