

# Students to register via Internet in fall 1999

By Marcia Eaddy  
Contributing Reporter

As part of a recently passed initiative, students will register for their fall 1999 courses through a new on-line method, a process that is expected to alleviate some of the confusion and inconvenience of the current system.

A group of 100 students will try out the new program to pre-register for their spring semester courses Nov. 16. The students participating were the first to respond to a mass e-mail sent to the junior and senior classes offering a chance to register for all of their classes using the on-line system.

Approximately 35 of these students will log-on every 15 minutes from 3 to 9 p.m. The purpose of allowing this group of students to register on-line is to give feedback to Information Systems and to discover problems that may arise.

In January, these students will have to validate their presence in order to begin classes. They will not have to go through the regular registration process with all other students.

However, these students will not be restricted to keep the classes for which they register on-line. They will still be able to make changes in their schedules during the regular registration period in January.

The test group of students has been through a training session that taught them how to use the program.

During the time that these students will register,

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Steve Benton  
Assistant registrar

there will be a help desk and IS staff members available in the library to handle any problems that may arise. The students will be able to use any ThinkPad, any computer lab on campus or any personal computer that is connected to the university network. The only other requirement is that the computer must be equipped with Netscape Navigator 3.0 or higher.

In April 1999, all undergraduates will begin using the on-line registration process. They will do so through the Wake Information Network system, which can be accessed through the link on the start menu or by going to the university Web page.

"Students will still be advised, and they will still pre-register in their declared majors and minors," assistant registrar Steve Benton said.

After students register in their majors, there will be a two-week process of on-line registration. This process will be done in rounds according to class level, with seniors registering first and freshmen last. This is different from the current process of seniors and fresh-

men first, followed by juniors and sophomores. On the first day, seniors will be allowed to select five credits. On the second day, juniors with majors will be allowed to select five credits, and on the third day, sophomores with majors will select five credits.

On the fourth day, any freshmen present will be allowed to select 10 credits. The following week the process is repeated, enabling students to complete the registration process.

All undergraduates are expected to be finished with registration in April. During the registration process, an enrollment limit will be placed on classes, allowing spots to be reserved for freshmen who will be entering in the fall.

When freshmen enter in August, they will go through the same on-line process after being advised.

After registering on-line, students will be required to validate their registration. The system will not accept a request for validation if there are any holds under the student's name. Students can find out if they have any holds through WIN as well. All holds must be taken care of before the system will allow a student to register. If students validate their schedules, the plan is to give them an adjustment day on which they can make any needed changes.

A letter will be sent to students who do not validate their schedules. The letter will inform them of a time in which they are to meet with the holding office. If they do not meet with the office, then the classes they registered for will be completely deleted. These stu-

dents will then have to pay the \$10 late registration fee, and they will have to register personally as is the current system.

All students will still be assigned a specific registration time, and the system will not let a student log-on until his or her designated time.

Each student will be given a personal identification number by his or her adviser that will be required to log-on. The number tells the system that a student has been advised and clears the student for registration. Once on the system, students can add and drop classes for a designated period of time. After this time, students will be required to use the drop/add slips found in the Registrar's Office.

Course catalogs will still be available, but all classes can also be looked up on the WIN system. If a student wishes to register for a permission of instructor class, he or she will need to see the instructor and obtain a POI number that will be required for registration of that class.

For classes that allow variable credit, the student will be asked to indicate how many credits he would like. The system will not allow a student to register for more than 20 credits, so if one wishes to register for more than this, he will have to do so in August by filling out the appropriate forms. Also, pass/fail and audit classes can be registered for through only the Registrar's Office in August.

Students will receive training before going through this process.

# Journalists discuss U.S. foreign policy's affect on news

By Heather Seely  
News Editor

Despite U.S. ideals of a free country and freedom of the press, a media panel discussion Nov. 9 in Annenberg Forum gave evidence that a little bit of Big Brother might still be out there and in the form of the Pentagon's control of the media.

More than 100 people attended "Seeing the World Through the Eyes of the Media" to hear three media experts reveal insight on U.S. foreign policy and its effect on or control of the media.

Douglas Waller, 71, a reporter for *Time* magazine who covers defense, intelligence and foreign policy focused on how the Pentagon controls what the citizens know about foreign policy. "The U.S. depends on the Pentagon," Waller said, adding that growing technology is decreasing the dependent relationship.

The other members of the panel confirmed Waller's statements about the Pentagon.

Sandy Tolan, a contributor to National Public Radio, International Public Radio and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and Australian Broadcasting, used examples of the portrayal of the Gulf War as a "clean, video war" and the bombing of a "chemical plant" that was really a medical plant in Sudan to illustrate the Pentagon's control over the media.

Lamis Andoni, a contributor to *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Financial Times* and *L'Ahrum*, offered a different take on the situation because of her experience reporting for both Western and Arabic papers.

She said that both papers offer a form of censorship. "On one hand, I was always able to benefit from writing for the Western press by getting in stories that were censored from Arabic papers," Andoni said. "Years of working for the Western press showed there is another kind of censorship: pressure to conform."

Andoni said when she was reporting in Iraq, other journalists wrote stories that conformed to what the Pentagon said rather than investigating on their own. She said



Jane Osliolo/Old Gold and Black

Journalism lecturer Wayne King moderates the media panel "Seeing the World Through the Eyes of the Media." The panel discussed the coverage of international events and how it is affected by U.S. foreign policy.

she wanted to write stories about what she saw: the targeting of civilian, water and cultural sites like museums.

"It was crippling the country. It was very difficult to get in a story about that," Andoni said.

Andoni used the specific example of a civilian center in Iraq where people would send their children to stay at night because it was the only place with electricity and the only place to block the sounds of war com-

ing from outside. The United States bombed the center, ripping through all three underground stories of the building and burning everyone alive.

"You could smell the stench of human flesh," Andoni said. She also said none of the U.S. journalists was able to investigate claims contrary to the United States.

Andoni said many reporters are hired for the access to sources with the media wanting more than just the scoop and wanting

the bigger story. "They expect you to get the story through access, but they don't want the context," Andoni said. "The context is defined by how the West sees the area and not how they see themselves, and the truth is somewhere in between."

Andoni said the problems arise from journalists who fail to question the United States' foreign policy. "The term of reference is usually the foreign policy," she said.

Tolan said the main problems with the

U.S. media today is a lack of skepticism and the trend of "infotainment" — stories such as the Monica Lewinsky saga.

The U.S. citizens too easily accept what they see in the media, Tolan said. He mentioned how Manuel Noriega was vilified in the news when pictures of gigantic bags of cocaine in his refrigerator were released. The bags turned out to be a mixture for making tamales, but by the time this information was released, the damage was done. Tolan said this vilification helped generate public acceptance of the invasion of Panama.

Tolan said the media today focus too much on "event journalism." Certain stories such as O.J. Simpson or Princess Diana overshadow more global stories. He used the example of a political cartoon with a refugee climbing through the desert. With what appeared to be his last breath, he asks about what is happening with Lewinsky. "What is lost in the process is a sense of what else is going on in our country and elsewhere," Tolan said.

Despite the media's attention to "infotainment," Waller said there is more coverage of events because of "the explosion of so many media outlets." He said scandals often break in what he called the "off-Broadway media" such as the Internet.

However, Waller agreed about the decline of international coverage. "The media reflects a more insular nation. Americans are less concerned with foreign news than in past generations," he said.

The media prints what sells, Waller said, mentioning that the sales of *Time* issues with foreign event covers "sink like a stone."

Andoni said the United States needs to examine its foreign policy and foreign coverage. "It is very important that the press highlights what goes on abroad and how it affects here," she said.

She said the lack of U.S. understanding of underdeveloped grievances perpetuates the Gulf War and terrorism. "The U.S. expects allies in the region to silence the opposition. People will have no outlet to present their grievances," Andoni said.

"We need to present people as people who want to live in dignity like American people," Andoni said.

# Debaters perform well in tourney

*Varsity, novice teams bring home first place finishes in recent regional match*

By Kyle Cutts  
Contributing Reporter

The university varsity and novice debate teams both captured first place at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Tournament, which took place Nov. 6-8 at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va.

This year, the debate team discussed issues of racial and genders discrimination in employment procedures.

In the varsity competition, freshmen Andrea Will and Jason Gronberg won, defeating teams from Boston College, James Madison and George Mason universities in elimination rounds.

Gronberg and Will dominated respected George Washington University two games to one in the final round of competition to clinch first place and finished with an overall 7-3 record.

"I think we have really good teams in all divisions, and I was especially pleased by our performance in the tournament," Gronberg said.

Other teams competing in the tournament were the duo of sophomores Amy Powell and Mark

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Ross Smith  
Debate Coach

Yopp and the team of freshman Chris DeVault and sophomore Liz Ellis.

Both teams reached the quarterfinal matches before losing to George Mason and George Washington universities.

The varsity team was not the only university team to win honors at the Liberty Tournament. Allan Loudon, an associate professor of communication and the director of debate, said, "We entered both Novice and Varsity and won both divisions."

The novice team of junior Rafa Guigou and sophomore Clint Watson won their division with an 8-2 record.

Guigou and Watson beat Mary Washington,

Boston College and Catholic University in order to reach the final match, where they shut out Navy 3-0.

The novice team of junior Susie Eggers and senior Erin Grall placed into the octa-finals. They eventually lost to the University of Pittsburgh.

Debate coach Ross Smith was especially pleased with the entire team's performance in the tournament.

"I'm just impressed that our teams did so well, our novices especially," Smith said. "I've always felt our novices should do as well as our varsity."

The success of both the varsity and novice teams in last weekend's competition points to a strong season for the debate team.

Both Loudon and Ross said they agreed that the team demonstrated not only talent and skill, but also a certain depth that promises to make this an exciting year in debate.

Next week, the debate team will host the Dixie Classic Debate Tournament at Mount Tabor High School.

The following week, the team will travel to compete in Long Beach, Calif.



Amer Khan/Old Gold and Black

**I'll take it**

Senior Nathan Davenport answers the phone at the Sundry Shop while helping sophomore Joe Yancey check out.