

Study looks at value of ThinkPads

By Andrea Arco
Old Gold and Black Reporter

The ThinkPad 2000 Initiative study, a project conducted by two education professors and two graduate students to assess the value of the individual computer distribution and its resulting \$3000 tuition increase three years ago at the university, is well underway.

The week after spring break, all graduating seniors received an e-mail directing them to a Web site that contained the survey and were asked to fill it out. The senior class contains approximately 800 students; so far, around 200 people have responded.

The professors that initiated the study, Leah McCoy, an associate professor of education, and Tina Heafner, an instructor of education, are nonetheless encouraged. "We don't expect to have collected all the data until May. Then,

the analysis can begin," McCoy said.

Laura Nagle, a graduate student pursuing math education, said, "I'm really excited about this project. We hope to find out how the ThinkPad distribution has impacted the culture of the campus."

The survey consists of 16 questions. Students are asked how often they use the computer in different areas of their lives such as research, entertainment, etc.

It also assesses the seniors' feelings on the general impact the computer has had on their college experience.

"My field is in education research so I am especially interested in computer education," McCoy said. "There are surveys assessing feelings about the computers being done in many different departments but the results of those studies are solely for those

departments. We hope to publish our results in a computer education journal and a report of our findings will be made available to the *Old Gold and Black* and the administration."

The research teams' worry is that the 200 students who responded quickly to the e-mail prompt may not be a representative sample because those are the students who like and are always on their computers.

"The seniors who are frustrated with their computers will not respond so the results could be skewed," Matt Burdick, a graduate student pursuing social studies education, said.

Thus, the research team is distributing surveys to all seniors by mail as well.

The researchers did not make any predictions about the results of the study.

The team's background re-

search, however, stated that males use computers more because, in general, they have greater access to them.

"Here, both males and females have the same access to computers, so it will be interesting to see if a sex difference does, in fact, exist in computer usage," McCoy said.

The research team also hopes to discover the difference in computer usage among majors and assess whether the seniors feel that they are more marketable in today's world as a result of the university's Plan for the Class of 2000.

"When each and every student got a ThinkPad upon enrollment, tuition went up \$3000. This is a big deal. We are trying to evaluate whether it was/is a worthwhile investment and let the students and administration know about this evaluation," Burdick said.



Chris Carlstrom/Old Gold and Black

In the market

After weeks of comparing their numbers with their friends', students got their chance to "shop" for a room next year.

SG

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that the committee "has the ultimate authority in all matters concerning elections procedures, violations and sanctions," and "the power to disqualify a candidate from the election rests solely with the Elections Committee." The committee decided to pass the decision on to the HEC after the appeals process in order to provide what Jones called a "fresh start" for the case.



Watson

Junior Clint Watson, the speaker of the house and member of the Elections Committee, said, "We want it to be a good decision: good for the student body and good for the candidates involved."

The Honor and Ethics Council will have final say in the matter. SG is currently contacting each member of the HEC in order to expedite the ruling to

allow a runoff election between two presidential candidates.

Strictly by the numbers, Goodman gained the plurality of the popular vote with 34.59 percent. Following close behind was junior and current SG secretary Amanda Carlson, who gained 30.73 percent of the vote. Junior Jacob Kline received 22.24 percent and sophomore Jordan Brehove gained 11.20 percent of the vote. Depending upon the forthcoming HEC decision, Carlson will be running against either Goodman, should the HEC exonerate him under the 24-hour limitation, or the second runner-up, Kline. The committee ruled out the possibility of a three-way runoff.

"I'm concerned that the race was extremely close and that these things could have an outcome on the election," said Kline. "I trust the Honor and Ethics Council to make a decision on that."

The results of the elections for the other electoral positions were more decisive. Uncontested, sophomores Ady Giuliani

and Tyler Koop were elected speaker of

the house and secretary, respectively. Additionally, freshman Tyler Overstreet defeated junior Roger Tise 77.15 percent to 21 percent for the position of treasurer.

For the next year, juniors Scott Adams, Scott Brown, Christina Crisp, Angie Hughes, Alex Pearce and Jamie Schuh; sophomores Lauren Hamilton and Kim Morgan; and freshmen Megan Alley, Lisa Hoppenjans, Ryan Ramsey and Jonathan Willingham will sit on the Board of Investigators and Advisors. Juniors Taylor Ince, Amanda Major and Brian Sumner; sophomores George Kayiales, Margot Lombardo, Alan Poole and Drew Senter; and freshman Lige Bolin were elected to Honor and Ethics Council

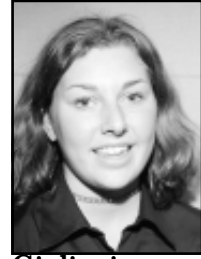
The decision concerning Goodman will be rendered by the 12 existing student members of the HEC, not those elected April 11. "This is a big test for the Honor system," Kline said. "The institutions that we have will be competent to do this for themselves."



Koop



Overstreet



Giuliani



Anderson

representatives of SG that many people

had difficulties in being able to vote in the election. Senior Jennifer Anderson, who lives in Davis House, said "I'm a senior and I definitely wanted to go vote and I went to my dorm lounge at 2 and no one was there." Senior Evie Carbrey said her dorm's polling "was supposed to start at 10 and didn't start until 11."

39 percent of the student body voted in the election. While last year's turnout was around 45 percent, Jones said that about 40 percent is normal.

In addition to the elections, all three proposed referendums passed. In a close vote, referendum one, which made SG treasurer and secretary non-voting members, passed. Referendum two, which prevents a member of the executive branch from serving on the judicial branch, and referendum three, which reserves the right to vote and be represented solely to enrolled members of the undergraduate student body, both passed with over 90 percent.

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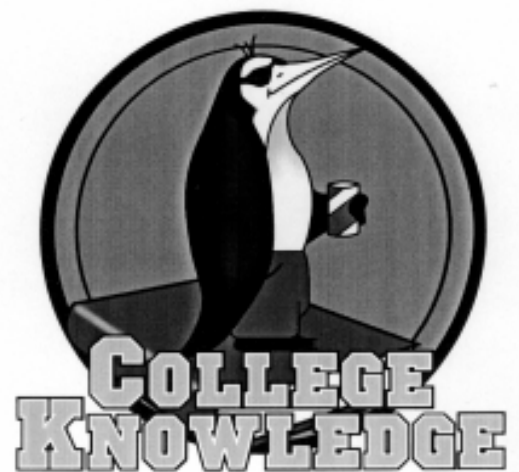
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