

FOCUS

Technique • Friday, February 24, 2006

SOFTBALL BRINGS HOME WIN

Softwall wins its first tournament of the year. Read about the team's up-and-coming freshman standouts. Page 30

IT'S-A ME, MARIO!

Super Mario Strikers brings the Mario crew to soccer on the Gamecube. See how the arcade-like party game plays. Page 17



Gaming geeks gather to hear gurus speak



COURTESY ELIZABETH CAMPBELL

Will Wright gave the keynote speech for Living Game Worlds 2006 on the game series *SimCity* and *The Sims*, his famous creations.

By Trevor Stittleberg
Staff Writer

Tech hosted a unique symposium on electronic games and digital media last Thursday, which featured a keynote speech from famed game designer Will Wright at the Tech Square Research Building.

Living Game Worlds 2006, organized by the Graphics, Visualization and Usability (GVU) Center, brought together students,

academics and industry developers to talk about the future of games and other interactive software.

The symposium included panels of participants on topics such as design processes and digital art. Later on during the day, developers made presentations of demos.

"Wright talked about new media and how it's heading in a different direction. Everything is centered around [customization]. For example, in iPods you can customize

Developers show off techniques and sophisticated design concepts, discuss future of video gaming

your play lists. Kids growing up now want to control themselves. He also talked about somatic properties and ways to interact with games, making them simple enough for people to [understand]. He's about new ways of doing things, new ways of thinking," said Michael Chu, a second-year Computational Media major.

Though many of the students at the conference were Computational Media undergraduate major or graduate students in Digital Media, other disciplines also have a stake in the future of digital interaction.

"Definitely, Wright originally studied industrial design, so a lot of it curves over," Chu said.

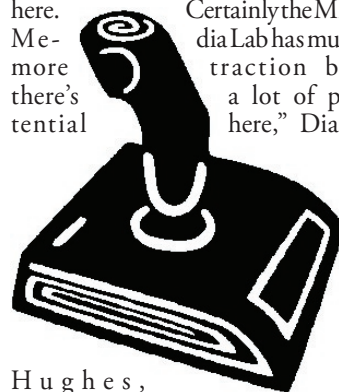
A fairly new member of industry was present at the symposium: GameTap, created by Turner Broadcasting. GameTap designs interfaces to older games that it licenses for play online, such as *Asteroids*, *Galaga* and *Sonic the Hedgehog*.

"Right now we have 372 games on the system," said Mark LaClare, GameTap representative.

Company representatives at the event seemed very interested in Tech's role in shaping the future of their industry.

"I'm very interested to see what Tech students are doing. I think

there's a convergence happening here and it's happening at other schools too, but not in the south. Atlanta has the potential to be a real planet of development because the students here, and the work they are doing here. It just needs to be promoted here. Certainly the MIT Media Lab has much traction but a lot of potential here," Diana



Hughes, interface design-er from GameTap, said.

The symposium's keynote speeches were given by Wright, known for his *SimCity* series and *The Sims* (the highest grossing game of all time) and Dale Herigstad, experienced graphic designer in television and three-time Emmy Award winner.

Several industry experts talked over the ways game design is changing during a panel on design process and games.

"There are times I want an epic cinematic experience and there are times when I really want to be in control. [Games] started out as living in a really small part of this space, it's exciting to see that growing. We're going to keep expanding out into new experiences," said Carl Schnurr, designer for Tom Clancy's *Rainbow 6*.

"More money is going to go to next generation consoles, and the PC is going to be like the connective tissues. [Games] in the future will be mostly network enabled," Wright said.

"You're going to log into a gaming AOL and play your single player game online," said Johnny Wilson of Manifesto Games.

"We may not call that multiplayer gaming, but on the Olympics we just watched one skater go down the pipe, checked his time and watched another skater go down the pipe, and compared his time to the first. That's multiplayer," Wilson said.

"In computational media, this is exactly what we do. There are industry and academia right here. This is the kind of thing people fly across to ocean to see. We know

See Gaming, page 13

New political student organization advocates GLBTQ civil rights

By Jeffrey Yunes
Contributing Writer

"Injustice anywhere is injustice everywhere," said Matthew Johnson, quoting Martin Luther King, Jr.

Recognition of this decades-old wisdom, spoken at a time of sweeping social change in the United States, drove Johnson and others to form Out Rights, Tech's first and only political organization focused on the advocacy of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning (GLBTQ) rights.

They seek the same thing King and others spoke and fought for throughout his era: civil rights.

"We felt that it was very much needed to have some type of group that's just working on the civil rights aspect of the GLBTQ," said Scott McKee, president of Out Rights.

McKee said the organization is fundamentally different from the PRIDE Alliance, Tech's current

GLBTQ student organization, in that PRIDE is not expressly a political group.

PRIDE tends to avoid political issues, as it is not technically a political organization—but, as McKee noted, this became a freedom of speech issue. "Georgia Tech needs to let everyone have their own freedom of speech," McKee said, adding that he and others saw the GLBTQ

community as a group of students without an outlet dedicated to enabling them to express their views on the politicized issues of civil rights.

Out Rights has become that outlet.

McKee and Johnson, Out Right's secretary, noted several perceived injustices at Tech that the organization seeks to address. Among the most notable examples of these is the nationally politicized issue of gay marriage.

McKee said, however, that

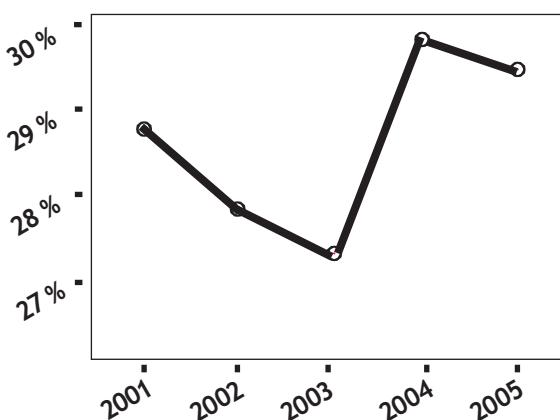
"[People of Tech are] not too bad and fairly understanding."

Matthew Johnson
Secretary, Out Rights

See OutRights, page 15

Women's recruitment board aims to balance gender ratio

Percent Women in Entering Undergraduate Class by Year



Source: <http://www.irp.gatech.edu>

By Manu Raghavan
Contributing Writer

The Office of Undergraduate Admission is actively involved in a marketing campaign to recruit female college applicants to ease the gender imbalance on campus. It targets female applicants who decline admission offers from Tech and choose instead to attend one of its peer institutions.

In line with this objective, the Women's Recruitment Board was established last year as a student-staffed advisory body reporting to the Office of Undergraduate Admission.

"The purpose of the WRB is to help this office in planning and implementing recruitment strategies," said Jennifer Johnson, assistant director for Special Recruitment Programs at the Office of Undergraduate Admission. "It is an advisory body that assists staff in planning events with high school students' interests in mind."

The WRB coordinates with the Office of Undergraduate Admission to conduct two yearly recruitment drives focused at different groups of prospective female applicants. It serves to market Tech's many opportunities and challenges and

to compliment the efforts of other groups across campus already doing the same.

One of these drives, FUTURES, is a day-long open house conducted in early March that caters to academically talented 10th and 11th grade girls seeking knowledge about the Georgia Tech experience. FUTURES features various events including campus tours as well as panel discussions on curriculum, careers, professional work experience, scholarships and study abroad programs.

Girls Night Out is an overnight stay program similar to Connect With Tech targeted at rising 11th grade girls. Over the summer, about 80 prospective freshmen are paired with student hosts and stay overnight in college dorms, attend typical classes and get a much more personal understanding of the Tech experience.

Apart from these official events, the activities of the board also include calling campaigns to remind prospective female students to apply to Tech and to personally congratulate successful applicants, thus reaching out and establishing a personal connection with them. WRB members and volunteers also staff college fair booths in high schools alongside

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Facilities unveils Earth Day celebration plans

By Nikhil Joshi
Focus Editor

This year's annual Earth Day festivities will take place April 21, one day before the national celebration. This is one day before Tech Beautification Day.

Cindy Jackson, program manager of the Georgia Tech Office of Solid Waste Management and Recycling, part of Facilities, serves as the chair of the Earth Day Committee. She said that this year's celebration would mark the first time that the committee would partner with Tech Beautification Day as well as local chapters of fraternities and sororities to host an e-recycling (recycling of electronic waste) initiative.

"What we try and do is focus the campus attention on sustainable initiatives going on not only at Georgia Tech but around the world," Jackson said. "We're such a diverse community here."

The committee, a combination of students, faculty and staff, began the planning process for this year's Earth Day in 2005. This year marks Tech's ninth Earth Day celebration.

"This one will be big," Jackson said. "Next year's [celebration], the 10th, will be even bigger."

The first national Earth Day celebration was held April 22, 1970. Former U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson first came up with the idea in 1969 while on a conservation tour across the nation.

Nelson went on a tour across the country in this year to preach environmental awareness; he also talked about an Earth Day dedicated to teaching the community about the environment and raising awareness in general. About 20 million Americans participated in the first Earth Day demonstration organized by Nelson to achieve his goals in educating the public on environmental consciousness.

The theme of this year's celebration at Tech is "What's Your Global Footprint?" Jackson said that students will be asked to question what their global footprints are—that is, what kind of impact they are making on the environment around them. She also said that one of the major goals of the Earth Day festivities is to introduce the campus community to

resources outside of campus.

"[Students] might be coming from their homes in Georgia, China, India or wherever," Jackson said. "But we are reaching out into the community to show people what Georgia Tech is doing. We are exposing faculty and staff and students to what's available in Georgia and in the community outside Tech. The purpose is to raise the whole area's environmental awareness."

Over 40 organizations, ranging from the Environmental Protection Agency to Kennesaw State Park and PAWS Atlanta will occupy booths on Skiles Walkway from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Also present will be representatives from campus such as Georgia Tech Craft Center and the College of Management.

Earth Day will also feature live performers, the Nike Reuse-A-Shoe booth, e-recycling and a T-shirt contest with a \$500 prize and an Environmental Leadership Award.

Live Entertainment

The Earth Day celebrations will feature live performances from three professors as well as three other artists. Performers will be split into two different stages. Professors Paul Mayne, Paul Neitzel and Adjo Amekudzi are scheduled to perform.

Mayne, a professor in the School of Civil Engineering, plays four- and five-string electric bass guitars with several local bands. He has played around the world in places like Sydney, Perth and Portugal. He serves as the Geosystems team leader in the School of Civil Engineering.

Neitzel, a professor in the School of Mechanical Engineering played for bands in the past, beginning in 1964.

He often plays at special events at a local art gallery. His main academic interest is in the field of fluid dynamics.



/ COURTESY RUSSELL TERRI

Everybody loves Reynard, the furry red mascot of Earth Day. Reynard entertains children during the 2005 Earth Day celebrations.

Nike Reuse-A-Shoe

Amekudzi, a native of Ghana, is an associate professor in the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

She composes and plays using programmable keyboards. Her most recent album, *LOVED*, was released earlier this month.

Other featured artists include Four Stone Sun, The Johnson Party and Tim Brantley.

In addition to these musical performers, Kevin Pittman, an employee of the Office of Information Technology, will dress as Reynard the Fox, the furry red mascot of Earth Day.

"This is his third year. He is a furry loveable red fox," Jackson said. "Everybody loves Reynard—even grown women with their cameras want to get their picture taken with Reynard. Everybody loves him."

"We are also trying to get Captain Planet here from the Turner Foundation," she said.

The Ramblin' Wreck will also be present.

Nike Reuse-A-Shoe is one of the main attractions of Earth Day.

"Last year we had a shoot-the-shoes [contest]. The women's basketball team hosted the booth. Kids, faculty and staff would throw old tennis shoes through the hoop," Jackson said. "Nike deconstructs those shoes and turns the pieces back into athletic surfaces."

Jackson said the booth was popular at last year's event.

Environmental Maze

One of the Earth Day events will be what Jackson called an "interactive environmental maze," a maze in which participants will be asked questions about their lifestyle and level of environmental awareness.

Upon completing the maze participants will be given a free T-shirt as well as a card describing their

See Earth, page 14



/ COURTESY RUSSELL TERRI

Members of the women's basketball team hosted the popular Nike Reuse-A-Shoe booth during last year's Earth Day celebrations.

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A public service of this newspaper

WRB

from page 11

admissions counselors, providing prospective students with more memorable experiences.

Such efforts are what encouraged first-year International Affairs major Jenna Castle to choose Tech.

"Last year, I received a personal call from a WRB member telling me that I was accepted here and also asking if I had any questions about Tech," Castle said. "Talking to the WRB member on the phone and receiving personal attention really influenced my decision to come here. The student that I talked to helped dispel myths about Georgia Tech and also gave me really useful information about my major and campus life."

"The strong impact that the WRB made on my decision inspired me to become a member this year so that I can help students with their college decisions and represent GT well," she said.

So what do female applicants care about when choosing a college? According to a recent survey conducted by the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, of all the female applicants who were accepted to Tech but chose not to attend, most cited the reason "financial aid not sufficient." The aid was not sufficient when compared to offers available from well-endowed private peer institutions such as Emory and Stanford.

Other significant reasons cited included "college too close to home" and "college too far from home." These are two issues that the WRB hopes to address by communicating the personal experiences of board members and volunteers to wavering applicants.

"I tell the girls when I talk to them that even though home is only 20 minutes away, I really feel like I've moved away to college because I live



By Christopher Gooley / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

The Women's Recruitment Board tries to attract prospective females who have been accepted to Tech. By talking to students on a one-on-one basis, the board attempts to dispel rumors and misconceptions.

on campus, alongside people from school," Castle said.

Many students believe that Tech lowers admissions standards for females for the sake of balancing the male to female ratio. However, according to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions and Castle, Tech does not lower its standards for any students.

"A common myth is that women have lower admissions standards because they are women, and this is absolutely not true.

"All applications are evaluated blindly, based on merit only," Johnson said.

"The student that I talked to helped dispel myths about Georgia Tech and also gave me really useful information..."

Jenna Castle
First-year IE major

Castle also addressed the scope of the board's programs and its source of funding. "Recruitment efforts are privately funded by alumni who give money specifically for this cause," she said.

While there are already large representations of women in some majors such as International Affairs and Modern Languages (72 percent female) and Biology (67

percent female), many other majors at Tech have significantly greater male representation. These include Mechanical Engineering (11 percent female) and Computer Engineering (5.5 percent).

In recognition of these facts, several academic units within Tech have already launched their own initiatives that seek to reach out to female applicants.

One such group which has outreach programs for prospective students is the College of Computing's Women@CC. The undergraduate students that are part of Women@CC are part of the Undergraduate Women's Advisory Board (UWAB). The UWAB attempts to welcome female computer science majors into Tech by hosting events which build a feeling of community.

Games

from page 11

how to make games about shooting stuff. How do you make games like poetry, with emotion?" asked Rob Fitzpatrick, another Computational Media major at the conference.

The event was put together by the Digital Media Graduate Program under the GVU, a unique Ph.D. program offered through the School of Literature, Communication, and Culture (LCC) and focusing on preparation for digital media research.

The GVU is involved with research in human-computer interaction, graphics, animation, wearable computers, education technology, and other topics.

One of the goals of the GVU is to promote collaborative research which combines many of these cutting-edge technologies.

"This has been loads of fun. I know a bunch of people here and I'm meeting new people.... We have to try and find a common language we don't want to repeat the error of film theory and move apart from [industry]," said Clara Fernandez Vara, a Ph.D. student in Digital Media.

Fernandez Vara's research focuses on how people understand and become involved with games.

During one of the panels, Ralph Koster, Chief Creative Officer of Sony Online Entertainment, made a comment of particular interest to her.

"He had read my blog where I was talking about single player games, and he was just responding to it. I just thought, 'Wow, small world,'" Vara said.

For more information on the presenters, and on Game Worlds 2005, visit <http://gameworlds.gatech.edu>.

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Earth

from page 12

"global footprint."

"This is the first year we will be doing something with the information we gather," Jackson said. "You will actually get [to discover] what your footprint is—that is—what you are actually doing on this earth."

"We'll ask questions like, 'How far do you drive to work?' or, 'Do you turn off your lights when you leave the room?' That's going to be very exciting," she said.

E-recycling

Toner cartridges, cell phones, computers, monitors, keyboards, printers and other electronic devices

will be collected for recycling at the Earth Day celebration. Jackson said this kind of project was done was in the summer of 2003, when Dell hosted an on-campus e-recycling drive. At the event, 72 tons of electronic waste was collected in 10 hours. "Electronic waste is one of the largest growing waste products that can cause serious environmental impact because it cannot go in a landfill," Jackson said.

The Office of Solid Waste Management and Recycling also collects non-perishable goods when students move out at the end of the fall semester.

Last year, according to Jackson, marked a record for the amount of food that was collected. This food is donated to the Atlanta Food Bank.

T-shirt contest

"The T-shirt design contest—that's a biggie," Jackson said.

This is the second year that Facilities is holding a contest for the best Earth Day T-shirt. This year's prize of \$500 is being awarded by the Coca-Cola Company to the winner of the contest.

"This year, we really upped the stakes to make it even bigger," Jackson said.

The T-shirt contest is open to all Tech students, faculty, staff, alumni and retirees. The deadline for submissions is March 17.

The design criteria states that the design should incorporate this year's theme. A complete list of rules for the contest is available at www.earthday.gatech.edu.

Leadership Award

After the Earth Day celebrations are over, the Earth Day Committee will present the third annual Environmental Leadership Award, a prize given to an individual who makes significant leadership contributions to improving ecological and environmental conditions.

Previous recipients of this award include William Miller, project manager of Facilities Design and Construction and Provost Jean-Lou Chameau.

Nominations can be made until March 17 by writing an essay of up to 250 words which describes why the nominated individual should receive the award. "Georgia Tech preaches about having well-rounded students," Jackson said.

"They want students that are not only good engineers, [but ones] that care about sustainability. It all comes back to sustainability. President Clough and Provost Jean-Lou Chameau are very big supporters of sustainability initiatives," she said.

Jackson said that the Earth Day festivities would provide a good outlet for students studying for finals. She recommended that students take advantage of the opportunity to take a break.

"It's the end of deadweek, [students] can come and relax. They can have a good time, free popcorn, water and T-shirts," she said.

Students can sign up to volunteer during Earth Day at www.earthday.gatech.edu. The deadline for signing up to volunteer for Earth Day is April 7.

sliver

www.nique.net/sliver

my stepdad said i was lower than dirt last night. the worst part is i believe him.

Quien es tu papa?

Calling all and any GT bagpipers... GT side drummer needs a piper...

The crossword last week was messed up! The clues did not match the puzzle. My Friday tradition was ruined. Just know that.

Hey all you BSU Techies!

You rock!

who likes m^2? hmmm...

m^2 needs some lovin' look out your window more often

To everyone in lcc2218, thanks for helping me out when i was feeling really

crappy. -ao

NAR > Nique

You wish.

SEIN UND ZEIT - NO ONE SHOOTS AT SANTA CLAUS - CLOSURE

David Andersen just articulated in my face!

... but do you think it might be time to get the POS fixed? Hovinstein

God is sooo real. I saw him just the other day.

Religion is awesome, it gives humans an excuse to kill.

I am so glad that the Physics department made the labs harder, I hated the fact that the lab actually used to help my grade.

Tech students complain too damn much. Be grateful you sons a bitches.

Contrary to rumor, there ARE girls at TECH...but they are all either taken, or cant go more than a week without cheating on you.

Bessel can SUCK it! PIDDLEFISTER i love you Kyle cannot create a physics theory.

studio sucks.

2 years and still cudnt find weapons of mass destruction... you dumb shmuck why dont u try google search!! Cudnt find weapons of mass destruction?? Bush benchod! try google search!

Whats the big bang? Bush Benchod - the orgy that gave birth to the universe??

Do the people in charge of landscaping really think that 500 trees can live 2 feet from each other?

See page 22 for more Slivers!

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A full 1/4 pound of real applewood smoked ham, provolone cheese, lettuce, tomato, & real mayo! (A real stack)

#8 BILLY CLUB®
Roast beef, ham, provolone, Dijon mustard, lettuce, tomato, & mayo. (Here's to my old pal Billy who invented this great combo.)

#9 ITALIAN NIGHT CLUB®
Real genoa salami, Italian capicola, smoked ham, and provolone cheese all topped with lettuce, tomato, onion, mayo, and our homemade Italian vinaigrette. (You hav'ta order hot peppers, just ask!)

#10 HUNTER'S CLUB®
A full 1/4 pound of fresh sliced medium rare roast beef, provolone, lettuce, tomato, & mayo. (It rocks!!!)

#11 COUNTRY CLUB®
Fresh sliced turkey breast, applewood smoked ham, provolone, and tons of lettuce, tomato, and mayo! (A very traditional, yet always exceptional classic!)

#12 BEACH CLUB®
Fresh baked turkey breast, provolone cheese, avocado spread, sliced cucumber, sprouts, lettuce, tomato, and mayo! (It's the real deal folks, and it ain't even California.)

#13 GOURMET VEGGIE CLUB®
Double provolone, real avocado spread, sliced cucumber, alfalfa sprouts, lettuce, tomato, & mayo. (Try it on my 7-grain whole wheat bread. This veggie sandwich is world class!)

#14 BOOTLEGGER CLUB®
Roast beef, turkey breast, lettuce, tomato, & mayo. An American classic, certainly not invented by J.J. but definitely tweaked and fine-tuned to perfection!

#15 CLUB TUNA®
The same as our #3 Sorry Charlie except this one has a lot more. Homemade tuna salad, provolone, sprouts, cucumber, lettuce, & tomato. (I guarantee it's awesome!)

#16 CLUB LULU™
Fresh sliced turkey breast, bacon, lettuce, tomato, & mayo. (JJ's original turkey & bacon club)

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★ Real potato chips or jumbo kosher dill pickle \$0.99
★ Extra load of meat \$1.25
★ Extra cheese or extra avocado spread \$0.65
★ Hot Peppers Free

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Political from page 11



By Michael Skinner/STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Members of Out Right, a new political organization for GLBTQ students, demonstrate for gay rights near the Campanile in November.

this may be a misnomer, adding that the contention focuses on rights and responsibilities denied to same-sex couples (more than 1,138, according to McKee). He said that he thinks people may feel threatened by the idea of marriage changing, and that rewording the proposed change of laws could help.

The organization is particularly focusing on more Tech-specific issues.

According to Johnson, Tech is, on the whole, "not too bad, and fairly accepting."

However, he added, there are many cases of injustice.

For example, he noted that there are sometimes roommate issues for some GLBTQ students. He said that currently, the main recourse is moving out, and that Housing is accommodating to such situations. "But it's mostly lack of understand-

ing on the part of the roommates," Johnson said, saying that education is needed to help students in roommate situations.

"[Roommate issues are due to] mostly lack of understanding on the part of the roommates."

Matthew Johnson
Secretary, Out Rights

Other issues included unequal employee benefits from ROTC and blood donation ineligibility, according to Johnson.

The organization arose in part from the free speech issues raised by conservative columnist Mike Adams in his www.townhall.com articles last fall.

Students realized that Tech lacked an organization that served as a forum for expression of views about GLBTQ political issues.

However, McKee said that this type of organization would have formed regardless, adding that the article likely served only as a catalyst.

[Stephen Baehl also contributed to this article.]

More students take online classes

By Hannah Donegan
Daily Mississippian

(U-WIRE) University of Mississippi—Today, the most mundane tasks can be completed online. Consumers can rent movies, pay bills and even buy postage stamps on the Internet. Increasingly, students are now able to take classes online.

There are 3,900 students enrolled in online classes at Ole Miss, said Kathy Palan, coordinator of Continuing Education. Palan said this number grows every semester, so 3,900 is the largest number so far.

While Ole Miss does not keep track of the number of non-traditional students, Palan said Ole Miss assists non-traditional students interested in online courses with admissions and other requirements. Non-traditional students are generally adult students who may be married and have children.

Ole Miss Online, as part of Ole Miss Outreach and Independent Study, offers 72 classes online with 87 sections for the Spring 2006 semester, according to Ole Miss Online's Web site. The classes cover a range of subjects from accounting to criminal justice to English. English and criminal justice offer the most online classes with 15 and 13 classes, respectively.

No specific class time or location is a time-saving benefit for many students, Palan said. Online classes at Ole Miss are treated like any other traditional class, providing the same credit hours as a regular class, she said.

Online classes also provide students with a full course load the opportunity to take more classes, Palan said.

One misgiving many may have about online instruction is the lack of personal communication with the instructor. ANGEL, the system used by Ole Miss Online to administer

classes, has a built-in e-mail program, chat rooms and community message boards. According to Palan, there is a lot of communication with the instructor in online classes.

Some auditory learners may worry about being able to understand the material without the benefit of a lecture. Some instructors have found ways to still give lectures. Professor John Duke, for example, posts Quicktime videos of a lecture for each of his lessons in his section of History 106.

The English department has the highest number of online classes. Joseph Urgo, chair of the department, said this may be due in part

"We try to look at providing high-quality academic opportunities... on a multitude of formats."

David McElreath
U. Miss. Legal Studies chair

to English being the largest major on campus.

Urgo said the bulk of the online offerings are writing classes and 200-level literature classes.

"Writing classes are very amenable to online learning," Urgo said.

The English department looks very carefully at every request to put a class online, Urgo said.

Online classes benefit those students with demanding personal, class and work schedules and also allow students from other disciplines to take creative writing classes, Urgo said. However, Urgo expressed concern about online classes' effects on certain parts of the educational

experience. Community interactions as well as class debates are not activities that would translate well to an online class.

"Too much of anything is not a good thing," Urgo said.

Jeremy Roberts, a senior English major from Terry, has taken an online class, but said he has no plans to take another one. He cited lack of interaction with teachers and classmates as one of the main reasons.

"It's better for me to have a teacher standing in front of me dictating what to do," Roberts said.

Urgo said the department faculty's opinions about online classes run the full spectrum. Some use online components a lot, while others use them rarely. The broad consensus, however, is online learning has its place.

Urgo has never taught an online class and said he probably wouldn't.

The department with the second highest number of online courses available is legal studies with 13 available courses.

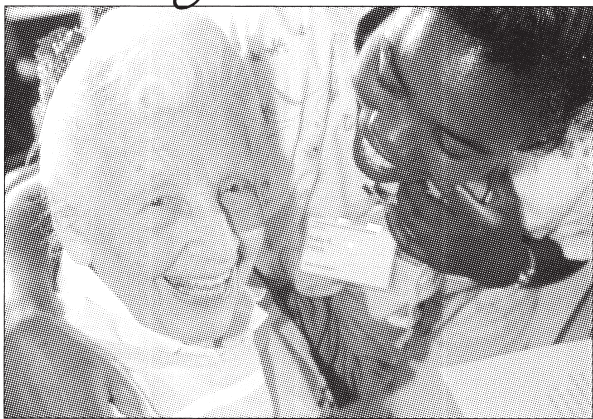
David McElreath, chair of the department of Legal Studies, said the department has offered online and weekend courses for three semesters and is enthusiastic about the program.

"We try to look at providing high-quality academic opportunities to our students on a multitude of formats," McElreath said.

Web-based classes afford the department the opportunity to bring in expertise that may not be readily available, McElreath said. Web classes also provide an opportunity for individuals who cannot relocate to teach classes.

Some classes don't lend themselves to Web-based instruction, McElreath said. Jeff Johnson, Outreach coordinator for legal studies, has taught many Web-based classes, as has McElreath.

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Tech Up Close

THIS WEEK'S PHOTO:



Know what this is? Send submissions to
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By Stephen Marek / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

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