Floyd Enters Technology Era

With the roll out of MicroQuest Slimnote computers to faculty last week, and the expected distribution to students next week, Floyd College has officially entered the technology era.

The planning and preparation for the Information Technology Project (ITP) has been ongoing for more than three years. The goals of the project are to improve student learning in several ways, including learning productivity (enabling each student to learn more, faster); career readiness (ensuring mastery of skills for success in the workplace); and accommodating the needs of nontraditional students (removing or easing time and distance barriers to information resources and learning). Other goals are to expand and improve on-and-off-campus services to all students; and to improve institutional flexibility and capability to acquire, use, support, and continually improve information technology while reducing institutional reliance on state funding for information technology.

Employees across campus have worked above and beyond the call of duty to insure that classrooms were wired, desks were built, that faculty were trained, that technical support personnel were hired, and that equipment was ordered in preparation for the ITP.

Colleges throughout Georgia and the United States are keeping a close eye on the project and will monitor its success for duplication in their institutions. FC President Lynn Cundiff even received a call from the White House this week asking for a page of information on the project to possibly be used in a speech by President Clinton.

All that to say that the time is now here to convince our students of the value of this project and to make it worth the $200 technology fee which will be assessed next quarter. Hopefully after a couple of months with the laptop all students will feel as a former "computer phobic" chemistry student does, as evidenced by a recent e-mail to Dr. Harvey Moody in which he wrote: "We are using computers a great deal (in UGA pharmacy school) and they expect us to know what we are doing. The students at Floyd College are going to have an advantage over students from other schools. They will appreciate it in the future. The more computer experience they have, the better prepared they will be when they move on."

With that said, we wish you Good Luck, and don't forget to have fun!

"Take Five" for Monte Carlo Gala

J.L. and Doris Todd of Rome have been named honorary chairpersons of the Fifth Annual Monte Carlo Gala sponsored by The Floyd College Foundation. The event will be held Friday, November 14, at 7 p.m. at the headquarters of the State Mutual Insurance Company, and will feature casino-style gaming and a buffet.

This year’s Monte Carlo Night will feature a Celebrity/Movie theme according to organizers, and will be called "Take Five." In concurrence with this motif, there will be an auction of celebrity paraphernalia, such as autographs of well known actors and directors, as well as scripts and props used in the production of films and television programs. There will also be giveaways of similar items throughout the evening. Along with the buffet dinner, there will be a “Some Like It Hot” salsa tasting table featuring local and national hot sauces for attendees to sample.

On the floor of the casino, there will be 14 blackjack tables, 2 craps tables and a roulette wheel for participants to try their luck. All proceeds go to the Floyd College Foundation, a charity organization made up of members of the community.

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Susan Claxton, director of Floyd College at Haralson, will make a presentation at the national conference of the National Organization of Human Services Educators in Boston in October. Her topic is “Nontraditional Teaching Modalities: Technology in the Classroom.”

Congratulations to Milton Chambers, printer in the Public Information Office, and his wife Julie on the birth of their third daughter September 14, and Marie Roberts, secretary in Learning Resources, and husband, Brian, on the birth of their daughter, Bethany-Anne Hope, on August 29.

Bill Mugleston, chair, Division of Social and Cultural Sciences, has coedited Perspectives on America: Readings in United States History From 1877, which was published by American Heritage Custom Publishing.

Keep Angelyn Strucher, assistant professor of Physical Education, and her family in your thoughts and prayers upon the death of her father this month.

Campus Lake Closed for Repair

Visitors to the Floyd College six-mile campus in Rome might be surprised to see the large hole in the ground where Paris Lake usually sits. The body of water has been temporarily drained to repair its corresponding dam. The restoration of the lake is being overseen by Doug Webb, head of Floyd College’s Physical Plant.

“The dam has had problems for years,” said Webb. “Unsuitable materials were used when it was originally built. When the hurricane came through here a few years back, a great deal of soil was eroded from the dam. We tested the dam and found that it’s structure wasn’t suited to withstand erosion. Water had sloughed off soil from the bank.”

“We felt the repairs were necessary to prevent the dam from breaking, ruining the lake,” said Wesley Jones, vice president for finance at Floyd. “The lake is important to the school for educational purposes.”

“We’re installing a French drain system,” said Webb, “using a rock bed with a pipe running through it. The water is caught in the rocks and weeps through. It’s then routed out through the pipe, eliminating the erosion of dirt.”

Mike Blackburn has been hired as contractor on the project. The work is planned to take two months to complete.

“We’re closing the lake,” said Webb, “for the obvious reason that the lake is almost nonexistent right now. Also, the contractor will be bringing in a lot of heavy equipment and it could be dangerous to the public.”

“We might have to take the water level all the way down,” Webb continued. “We have to determine where the water is leaking and it could be below water level.”

Floyd College Folks & Features is published biweekly by the Office of Public Information. Information for inclusion can be e-mailed to: sandy_briscar@floyd.fc.peachnet.edu no later than noon Tuesday prior to publication.

“We’re going to lose the fish for the time being,” said Webb. “We’re going to try to pump them out, sending them downstream. There should be no ill effects to the wetlands.”

The estimated cost of the repairs is $270,000. These funds will be provided by Board of Regents Major, Repair and Rehabilitation funds.

“The lake is a tremendous asset to the school and the community,” said Webb, “and another big storm could blow the dam out. This would cause big trouble and cost a lot more to repair.”

"Take Five" for Monte Carlo Gala continued

The Foundation raises funds for scholarships, including the Non-Traditional Student Scholarship which was initiated this year. The group is headed by Chair Ann Green, Vice Chair Layton Roberts, Secretary Barbara Myers and immediate Past Chair Mary Louise Lever.

Tickets are currently available to Foundation Patrons at $250 for 2 tickets. General public tickets will be on sale Oct. 15 for $50 each. Interested parties should call the President's Office at 706.295.6328.