

Hewlett Packard Technology for Teaching Grant Initiative 2004 Summer Term Report

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Investigator Names:

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Reporting Period:

May 25, 2004 – August 24, 2004

Progress Report:

This summer term has been a period of equipment distribution, familiarization and planning. Tablet PC and docking stations were distributed to all five initial team members. At our first team meeting in June, it was decided to distribute one additional system to our department's IT manager, who will work closely with the grant team to integrate the grant equipment into the IT infrastructure of the department. In addition to wireless connectivity issues, we have been assessing the software needed on the tablets, keeping them current with operating system and software upgrades via cloning to save time and effort. The team also established guidelines for meeting requests of non-team-member faculty desiring to evaluate Tablet PC potential while maintaining sufficient equipment for student usage per grant proposal scope.

During the month of June as team members had the opportunity to use their Tablet PCs in meetings and to talk to their peers in informal settings (within our department, the College of Agriculture and across the UK campus) about the equipment, the grant and the opportunity that this technology brings to the educational setting. Several non-team-member faculty the department, expressed an interest in developing modules for their own courses. The team intends to accommodate these additional requests for the additional use of the mobile classroom, provided they do not conflict with the original grant team members' usage. Another department within the College of Agriculture was so impressed with the technology that they have contacted HP to discuss purchasing Tablet PC equipment for their own mobile classroom.

In late June, one team member had the opportunity to teach a week-long GIS workshop using the grant Tablet PCs. Within the constraints of the pre-determined workshop format, the Tablet PC interactive toolbar for ESRI's ArcGIS software was worked into the schedule. The feedback from the class participants was extremely positive!

Team members have begun to develop the course modules outlined in our proposal. To more effectively utilize the equipment provided, the GIS in Water Resources course taught by Ms. Dowdy was rescheduled from the Spring 2005 semester to the Fall 2004 semester. Moving to the fall semester will allow her to integrate tablet technology into her classroom and to take advantage of better weather for the "field" classroom exercises as planned in our proposal. This rescheduling will also allow for the accommodation of the non-team-member faculty requests for grant equipment in additional spring semester classes.

There have also been additional opportunities for further usage of the Tablet PCs and exposure of the mobile technology grant. A new course (GIS 210 – Advanced Geographic

Information Systems) offered at Lexington Community College (LCC) will be integrated into our grant. This course, taught one evening per week will incorporate the Tablet PCs and their GIS/GPS software to be utilized in a satellite campus setting.

In addition to the development of course modules by team members Teri Dowdy, Steve Workman, Ryan Kelly and Richard Warner, two fall workshops are currently being planned. Ryan Kelly is developing a grant presentation for a LCC faculty workshop to be given in early October. Another half-day workshop, incorporating Tablet PCs and ArcGIS is planned for the Kentucky GIS Conference to be held in Lexington on September 29th.

Impact:

Team members have found themselves utilizing the grant equipment on a daily basis, not only for proposal related tasks. Over the summer, an additional six BAE department faculty members have used and evaluated the Tablet PC for use in their own classrooms and research projects. Participants in GIS workshops were exposed to the technology. As team members attended meetings outside the department, they took their tablets along, striking up conversations regarding their use. Other team members have had the opportunity to take their tablets along as they traveled, replacing larger laptops and becoming more familiar with the computer's capabilities. IT staff response to the equipment has also been very favorable.

Presentations and Publications:

None to date.

Scheduled:

"Take the Class with You – Mobile Technology in the Classroom" – BAE Departmental Seminar Series – September, 2004.

"Tablet PC Technology in the GIS Classroom" – KY GIS Conference, Lexington, KY, September 28-30, 2004.

"Tablet PC Technology in the Classroom at LCC" – LCC Faculty Workshop, Lexington, KY, October 1, 2004.