

The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Student Technology Fee Project
REPORT
2004-2005

Title: Graphic Design Computer Labs Technology Upgrade
Unit Submitting Proposal: Department of Art, Professors Greenwell and Targ
[Report submitted September 2006]

Financial report:

In order for the department to fully serve its students, and in order to meet technological competencies recognized as critical by the department's accrediting body NASAD (National Association of Schools of Art and Design), we used our Student Technology Fee grant funding to replace aging computers and operating systems, software, scanners, and airport technologies.

Total funding from acct# E040156026:	50,607.00
Hardware (21 new Macintosh computers):	36,462.82
Software (Macromedia):	5,005.00
Software (Adobe Creative Suite):	6,961.00
Meru Wireless (Telecommunications):	1,208.00
Remainder in acct# E040156026:	1,070.18

16 computers were be installed in the Graphic Design computer lab (FAC 412b). Five computers were placed in the Graphic Design Senior Studio (FAC 412a). Scanners were distributed appropriately in each space, and the AirPort modules are located throughout the department.

Summary of methodology, goals, measures and evidence of success:

The installation of the computers, server, software, airports and scanners took place during the summer of 2005. Fine tuning of the system and careful placement of the displaced hardware was completed by Fall 2005. A Student Technology Fee Project sticker was affixed to the main Graphic Design computer lab door and the fruits of the grant were in place. The bulk of the work was done by Professors Targ and Greenwell with the assistance of lab assistant Nick Hughes (set-up) and Department of Art administrative assistant Cheryl Fox (ordering).

Our goals were (and are) to offer the best possible educational experience for our students – an experience which, by definition, includes a solid foundation in computer technology. The funding of this grant immediately demonstrates to the department, the professional community who look to our students as prospective employees, and to NASAD that the institution believes in and supports this commitment.

Driven by the necessity of maintaining our accreditation with NASAD, we also seek to promote computer literacy and facility in Department of Art students and specifically BFA in Graphic Design majors; to allow for a continued close and exemplary relationship between the university and the community; and to responsibly graduate students with skills for a strong entry into the world of art and design. Our record of students hired into (particularly) the technology-heavy profession of graphic design, and into competitive graduate programs continues to flourish. A case in point is the overwhelmingly positive response we had in the Spring 2006 senior-level graphic design portfolio review during which one third of the interviewed students received standing offers of employment. Another recent graduate was hired full-time in a studio that for years was maintained as a one-person firm. Today he works there full-time, has benefits and will attend a design conference in New York City this fall. These cases are directly impacted by student access to current software and hardware, made possible by this grant. Their facility with scanning, printing, file organization and print and web production simply cannot develop without relatively frequent upgrades, and is imperative for hirability.

Our use of Macintosh AirPort technology allows students and faculty to access the files, printers, the internet and email systems from the ever-growing number of laptops being used in the department. An upgrade in the wireless technology in the department has increased the flexibility of the network, the smooth integration of students' portable computers, and expands the practical use of our limited physical space in the department.

We thank the Technology Committee for the generous support of this grant, and hope the documentation is helpful. We have been using all items purchased through the grant very heavily, and could not be responsible to our students nor match NASAD requirements had we not received the financial support.

Thank you very much,
Rebecca Targ and Matt Greenwell
Department of Art Recipients of Student Technology Fee Funds 2005