Laptops sprout in Biz College

By Paul Mullin

A new program at Rider requires all business freshman to purchase a laptop from Dell, choosing from one of two models selected in a joint effort between the School of Business and the Office of Information Technology (OIT).

“The creation of the program was a joint venture between the business program and technology,” said OIT Helpdesk specialist Sean R. Pietrowski.

“The purpose of the program is to incorporate laptops into the classes and the curriculum in business,” stated Helpdesk director Krystyna Rykowski.

OIT served primarily as technical advisors in the selection of the laptops that would be incorporated in the program, as well as the negotiations over the cost of the laptops and the service that comes with them.

“The technical support for the laptop students comes directly from OIT, not from the vendor,” Rykowski said.

In addition to the development of the program, the OIT Helpdesk was relocated to the library to better serve the technical needs of the students involved in the program.

“The Helpdesk, previously located in the Bart Luedeke Center (BLC) was moved to the library because it is a ‘central point for any technical problems,’” said Rykowski.

“We have noticed an increase in the number of people stopping by the desk, even just with general questions,” said Pietrowski.

One of the more emphasized positive points of the program is the convenience factor, cited by both the faculty and students involved.

“The program makes it easier to do projects and type stuff up,” said Brad Johnson, a freshman accounting major. “Also, some classes require us to have the laptop in class.”

One of the main points of the program was to give the students experience with the various types of software they will eventually be using following graduation.

“The program is excellent because it forces the students to integrate the laptop into their education and their profession,” Pietrowski said.

“It is designed to give the students experience in a business environment,” Rykowski agreed. “Adding the professional equipment and software will also help in their daily lives.”

The progress of the program and its further evolution has both been cited as primary concerns of the staff.

“We hope the program will grow,” said Rykowski. “We are at this point trying to enhance the services we offer, and we are always listening to the technical demands of the students as the program grows.”

Freshman Jennifer Rosenblum, a student in the School of Business, works on her laptop at the steps of the Moore Library. The program requires business freshman students to purchase a laptop from Dell. The Office of Information Technology (OIT) serves as technical advisors of the program and moved its Helpdesk as a result of the responsibility.

‘WCC’

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The following night, students attended the Homecoming dance in Williamson Hall. The unique building featured several special events, including a surprise visit from above.

Toward the end of the evening, Hallett announced the Homecoming King and Queen. Claude Cassion and Joan Aniano, both sophomores, were crowned with the top honors.

“I was never nominated for any kind of queen — homecoming or prom — back in high school, so winning the title had somewhat of a special meaning for me,” Aniano said.

As for the tradition of rooting for the home team at a football game during Homecoming, a lack of athletics did not prevent the students from enjoying their weekend, said Hallett.

“We may not have a football team on either campus, but that doesn’t stop us from showcasing our many talents and throwing a great party,” she said.

FOX star, alumni team up to support Katrina victims

By Paul Szaniawski

A FOX network television star will be featured at a benefit talent show to be held on Thursday, Oct. 13 at 7 p.m. in the Bart Luedeke Theater.

Host of FOX NFL Sunday, James Brown, also known as “J.B.,” will be a judge at the talent show, organized entirely by Rider alumni and current students.

Through a relationship that the alumni students had developed with Brown’s daughter, Katrina, they were able to get “J.B.” to team up with them to help out those in the affected areas.

“We knew J.B. wanted to do something big to help Katrina’s victims,” said alumnus Gregory Lojusje, class of ‘04.

Originally Brown was also scheduled to do his radio show at Rider on Thursday, Oct. 13, but “Rider couldn’t provide the technical needs,” according to Lojusje.

Even so, Brown kept his commitment and is scheduled to sign autographs for up to half an hour after the talent show.

“We all talked about doing an event, then we brought the idea to Dean Campbell,” said Lojusje. “We set up a meeting with him, outlined the talent show and here we are today.”

Dean Campbell, as well as Rider alumni and EPA associate director Lamisha McGaure, ‘03, will be judges alongside Brown.

“What makes this extra special is that our young alumni can demonstrate the fact that they have learned that we should give back and that they worked hard to put this together and involve the rest of the Rider community,” said Campbell. “This event, although sponsored by the alumni, is an event that takes advantage of the talents of Rider University and to serve those who are less fortunate than we are. It is truly a Rider community and family event.”

Other celebrities have also pledged their support to the benefit because of Brown. Each celebrity, including Holly Robinson Peete, Clifton Powell and the crew of FOX NFL Sunday, is scheduled to either appear or send a message through satellite specifically made for Rider.

“The more people come, the more money we have for Habitat for Humanity,” said Kimberly Addison, ‘03.

All of the proceeds will go to the charity organization, Habitat for Humanity, which will be building foundations for homes in the area affected by Katrina. Admission to the talent show is $7 for students and $10 for faculty. All students will receive a $2 discount if they bring one of the specific canned items listed on the talent show flyer.

“Some people don’t know how they can help,” said Addison. “This is a way to help [the Hurricane Katrina victims]. It’s not a charity, it’s a lot to you, but it is the person receiving it.”

Max Weinberg to Speak at Rider

Max Weinberg, drummer of Bruce Springsteen’s legendary E Street Band and also the band leader of the Max Weinberg 5 on NBC’s “Late Night with Conan O’Brien,” will speak at Rider on Monday, Oct. 17 at 9:30 in the Bart Luedeke Center Theater (BLC).

Max Weinberg, along with the Springsteen and other music legends, will be speaking to encourage young voters to get out and vote.

‘SAF’

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There is an elaborate process and a great deal of work that goes into properly allocating the money and where it goes,” said Resident Finance Board Chair Glenn Kasper.

According to senior Finance Board Chair Erica Stout, decisions made within the Finance Board are fair toward the direct and indirect recipients of the funds.

“We look at each proposal and each budget as if everything is equal,” said Stout. “We use the same criteria and we judge it an event, conference, capital expenditure or budget on whether it is going to be good for the campus and if it’s going to be good use of the money.”

Stout said that one of the goals of the Finance Board, which holds open general meetings every Wednesday, this year is to make the organization known and to inform the student body as to what the SAF is.

“It would be amazing for people to see that SEC movies and Bronc Buffets are funded by SAF,” said Stout. “Even some speakers are partially funded by it. People see that, but don’t put the connection that oh that is my money.”