

Toshiba's Tablet PC Makes the Grade After Its First Semester at Purdue University

Story:

Purdue University, located in West Lafayette, Indiana, has a student body of over 38,000 students, and serves in the vanguard as an innovator of educational techniques. For the last six months, Purdue's educational leadership was illustrated by their introduction of Toshiba's tablet PCs into the curriculum of the University's Department of Communication. After completing its first term at Purdue University, Toshiba's tablet PC has already earned high marks with students and faculty.

The tablet PCs have enabled students to increase their academic productivity via educational applications that facilitate classroom interaction and which foster a more collaborative learning environment. Through the university-wide wireless LAN network students can access almost any academic resource, including the library database, course syllabi, and instructors' notes from anywhere on campus. Moreover, the university professors have developed inventive ways to incorporate the use of the tablet PCs into their course curriculum.

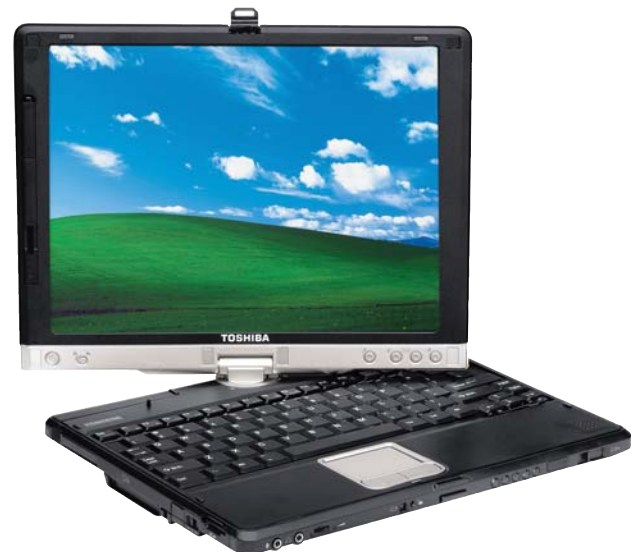
New Ways to Report the News

One of the first courses that implemented Toshiba's tablet PC was the Department of Communication's Public Affairs Reporting class. This advanced reporting class teaches students to apply writing and editing skills to the ongoing coverage of local government. Students were tasked with attending local governmental and educational board meetings to take notes, question attendees, and report back on the public affairs activities, as a real-world reporter would. Prior to the introduction of Toshiba's tablet PC, the Public Affairs class was largely taught in a university computer lab. Using tablet PCs allowed the instructor more flexibility and freed up computer lab space for other uses.

This year, each student was assigned a Toshiba tablet PC to use for this class. The tablet PC replaced the traditional tools of reporting such as paper and pen, and students were able to take notes and cover the meetings easily. The tablet PC also helped the course instructor to keep a nearly paper-free program.

One program goal for Susan Brockus, Department of Communication lecturer, was to have a paperless classroom with all student coursework forwarded to her by email, this way she could provide feedback electronically, and was able to keep copies of students' work on file for future reference.

One interesting side-effect of the students' use of Toshiba's tablet PC in the field was the attention it drew. After nearly every event or meeting they attended, students would return with stories of meeting attendees who



would corner them, and ask for a demonstration of the tablet PC.

“At a West Lafayette school board meeting, board members were so interested in the technology-in-the-classroom aspect of what the students were doing that the students had a hard time keeping the board members focused on providing comments on the meeting,” commented Brockus.

Studying Success

Purdue’s graduate students are also benefiting from the use of Toshiba’s tablet PCs. Professor Mohan Dutta-Bergman facilitates a graduate communications campaign course. The key uses of the tablet PC involves note taking during lecture, data gathering and report writing. Participating students are combining their use of tablet PCs with the Tegrity software program, enabling them to synchronize their class notes with the course lecture outline.

Toshiba’s tablet PC is helping graduate study groups to collaborate more effectively on research projects. They are able to share their notes with each other and bring research data to class or study group meetings. Students and faculty have found the tablet PC to be so promising that the department is conducting systematic research on the usage of these devices. A research team led by Professor Howard Sypher is exploring the impact of tablet PCs on team building and exploring the ability of the tablet PC to facilitate the communication process outside of the classroom. Professor Dutta-Bergman already has an opinion on the outcome of this study.

“Tablet PCs ease the learning process for students, and facilitates great participation and communication. This is a key ingredient for education,” notes Dutta-Bergman.

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Headquartered in Irvine, Calif., Toshiba America Information Systems, Inc. (TAIS) is comprised of three divisions: Digital Products Division, Digital Solutions Division and the Storage Device Division. Together, the three divisions provide mobile products and solutions, communications, storage and imaging products and services. Products include industry leading portable computers, PDAs, projectors, DVD/CD recordable products and hard disk drives for computers, telephony products, digital imaging systems, cable modems, servers, wireless solutions and services.

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About Purdue University

Purdue University is a land-grant, state-assisted system in Indiana. Founded in 1869 and named after benefactor John Purdue, the University is one of the nation’s leading research institutions with a reputation for excellent and affordable education.

Building upon historical strengths in engineering and agriculture, the West Lafayette Campus now offers 7,400 courses in more than 500 undergraduate majors and specializations in the schools of Agriculture, Consumer and Family Sciences, Education, Engineering, Health Sciences, Liberal Arts, Management, Nursing, Pharmacy and

Pharmaceutical Sciences, Science, Technology, and Veterinary Medicine. Programs of graduate study and research leading to advanced degrees come under the jurisdiction of the Graduate School. Purdue is a member of the Big Ten Conference with 9 men's, 9 women's Division I NCAA teams.

Additional information may be obtained by calling Toshiba Education Center at 1-888-67-LEARN, from your local preferred reseller or by visiting the Toshiba Education website at www.education.toshiba.com.