The Wireless Revolution: Wifi Comes to PVCC

Sam Myers, former staff writer

[November 18, 2005] When I first received an email about the coming of a wireless network to PVCC, I honestly did not give it much thought.

However, after attending the introduction ceremony and posing a few questions to our chief information officer, Simeon Ananou, I have begun to realize the really profound impact it will have on our college experience.

The access points throughout the college are of a commercial grade for optimum efficiency, and they encompass virtually every part of the main and Dickinson buildings as well as sitting areas outside both. So bring your wireless-ready laptop and make good use of this new luxury.

The goal of the wireless initiative at PVCC is to revolutionize the way we learn, by providing extremely fast access to the Internet for pure web surfing enjoyment or more scholarly endeavors. Ananou said that while faculty and staff will benefit from the advancements, the new network was designed with a focus on students.

Over a year of planning and hard work has been given to this cause by our devoted IT staff, and I think we owe it to them to take full advantage of the fruits of their labor and not to abuse the trust they have placed in us. We are urged to remember that due to the wide open nature of the network, those using wireless computers should exercise caution when conducting confidential transactions or business.

The registration process, which takes about 2 and a half minutes, addresses security concerns.

Now if you are worried because, like certain staff writers, you are currently out of laptop funding, fear not, for in the Jessup Library you will find 15 such devices available to students for no charge. While using these computers is free, they cannot leave the library with you.

Piedmont also is purchasing 30 laptops which will make up two mobile computing labs. These can be wheeled to any room on campus after a teacher has reserved them.

This presents intriguing interactive possibilities, with students able to take an active part in lessons which might otherwise be just another lecture.

Ananou predicts that professors will begin to take advantage of this option by the end of this semester, with the full potential being realized next year when our instructors have had ample time to structure lesson plans with these assets in mind.

It may seem like a minor addition at first, but how many times have you been the odd student out of a library computer? And how many times have you wished you could relax in front of the majestic view behind the library while typing your term papers?

I believe this will impact many of us more than we realize, particularly in the classroom setting, and I for one will be looking forward to a bit of hi-tech variety next year.

Comic by Lauren Cottrell