Concluding months of research and comprehensive evaluations, UNCG has selected IBM/Lenovo as the vendor for the Windows platform laptop. IBM/Lenovo has accepted the Selected Windows Laptop Vendor responsibility. In Spring 2006, students will be able to order laptops online from IBM/Lenovo.

The laptop program has also been extended to include the Macintosh platform, for which Apple is the only prospective vendor. Details on Macintosh ordering and support are being negotiated with Apple but are not yet finalized.

The student laptop program is an initiative of Provost A. Edward Uprichard and the Deans Council and is supported by Information Technology Services (ITS). This program reinforces UNCG’s position as a student-centered learning institution for the 21st century. Beginning Fall 2006, Academic Affairs will recommend that freshmen purchase a wireless laptop computer. In 2007, freshman will be required to purchase a laptop.

In October 2005, the laptop project team, led by Kevin Latimer, issued a formal RFI (Request for Information) to solicit proposals from vendors. UNCG used the RFI process, rather than a RFP (Request for Proposal) because no University funds will be directly spent on the purchase of the laptops. Out of the four vendors that responded to the RFI, the top two candidates were IBM/Lenovo and Dell.

In November 2005, both vendors visited UNCG to give oral presentations of their products. The vendors were evaluated based on several criteria derived from the RFI, including the areas of bundled software, training support, overall product design, durability, and cost. The evaluation mechanism used by UNCG was based on a similar model used by East Carolina University in the selection of their PC laptop vendor in 2003. Last December, the project team and the Academic Technology Coordinating Committee (ATCC), led by Dr. John Eatman, decided to recommend IBM/Lenovo.

In conjunction with the laptop initiative, ITS has partnered with Academic Affairs to establish a wireless computing environment at UNCG. Installation of a campus-wide wireless technology infrastructure was the main component of the first phase of the wireless initiative. Initial wireless services included both web access (http) and secure web access (https). In response to client requests, two additional services have been added: secure file transfer protocol (SFTP), and secure shell (SSH). The second phase of the wireless initiative will expand wireless access to all major academic buildings and many common areas on campus. This phase is expected to be complete by Fall 2006.

For more information about the wireless or laptop initiatives, please visit the Wireless/Laptop Web page at http://its.uncg.edu/laptop.

UNCG Selects Student Laptop Vendor

NEW NAME FOR ITP DIVISION, REDESIGNED WEB SITE

In December 2005, Chancellor Sullivan approved changing the name of the Information Technology and Planning (ITP) division to Information Technology Services (ITS). The new name reflects the fact that the division is a single, integrated, technology organization and all staff are fully devoted to information technology services. Units within the division will be identified by their functionality, such as “Systems.” In late January, ITS will begin introducing a redesigned Web site, which will merge information from previously separate Web sites into one easy to navigate and useful site. The transformation of the entire Web site will continue throughout the spring semester. New features of the Web site include an A-Z index of help topics, client-specific (student, faculty, staff) portal pages, and an ITS Spotlight section featuring the latest UNCG technology project information. The redesigned ITS Web site will be located at http://its.uncg.edu.

399 MILLION JUNK E-MAILS BLOCKED

UNCG’s spam-filtering solution, MailFrontier, blocked over 399 million junk e-mails from delivery in 2005. The largest number of junk e-mails (95%) was identified as spam or likely spam. For up-to-date reports regarding junk e-mail, go to MailFrontier at https://spamcontrol.uncg.edu. Login using your Novell username and password; click on Reports. UNCG clients can view hourly, daily, or monthly reports.
Upcoming New Banner Release

ITS and members of the UNCG client community are working together to implement Sungard SCT’s newest release of Banner. This new release, Banner 7, offers features that will be immediately noticeable to the approximately eight hundred UNCG clients who use Banner as part of their work.

Banner 7 is browser-based. Previous versions of Banner at UNCG were delivered via the campus Novell environment. Banner 7 is able to function independently of Novell, and clients will be able to access Banner through Web browsers such as Internet Explorer. Additionally, Banner 7 is not limited to computers running the Windows operating system.

The browser-based interface of Banner 7 is designed to be more user-friendly than previous Banner interfaces. UNCGenie will also receive a new look that is more similar to the overall design of Web pages at UNCG.

This Banner upgrade requires a great deal of coordinated effort between UNCG clients who rely on Banner to do their work and the ITS staff who install, maintain, and enhance the Banner system. Fourteen client leads and twenty-three ITS employees are directly involved in this effort. ITS staff must convert data, forms, processes, and interfaces from Banner 6 to Banner 7 formats. Client leads and additional client staff test the newly reformatted data, forms, processes, and interfaces and report errors to ITS. ITS addresses the reported errors, and clients re-test to certify accurate system functionality.

The Banner 7 roll-out is expected to take place during Spring Break in March 2006, and will require scheduled weekend and potentially weekday downtime. The campus will be notified in February of scheduled downtimes. Enrollment Services will hold training sessions for clients to help familiarize them with the new Banner interface. All persons with Banner accounts will be notified of these training opportunities.

- **Student laptop initiative**

  The Laptop Project Team (Kevin Latimer, project manager) has reached an agreement with IBM/Lenovo that permits UNCG students to order laptops with attractive prices and features. Laptop ownership is recommended for all 2006 incoming freshmen. Soon, ITS will discuss with departments the opportunities for them to order faculty/staff laptops under the same agreement.

- **Wireless computing**

  Each month, additional wireless services are available or services are available in additional buildings. ITS makes monthly announcements to the campus on developments in the wireless and laptop projects.

- **Self-registration of computers on the network**

  To speed up the process of registering computers on the network, ITS has developed a self-registration process. This will save time for new faculty/staff, and faculty/staff who are moving computers. Schools that want their faculty/staff to work through School technical staff will notify them.

On a personnel matter, Moreland Smith has been named Assistant Vice Chancellor for Management Information Systems. We are pleased to have Mr. Smith continue to provide leadership in this important area.