

Alfred University upgrades wireless access

2/14/05

Alfred University Information Technology Services has upgraded the wireless access points on campus, making wireless Internet service is available at more places on campus. "With the increased availability of wireless and the number of laptops that now come standard with this feature, ITS came to the conclusion that the existing wireless infrastructure needed an upgrade", says Michael J. Wyant, Jr., helpdesk technician/desktop support specialist. The Alfred University campus was already among the top 100 colleges and universities in the country, according to a survey by Intel of the nation's college campuses for their wireless computing access. Alfred University ranked 44th on a list of the top 100. This project, which began in the fall semester of this year, was completed during winter break. There are now more places on campus where students, faculty and staff can use the wireless service, including, but not limited to, residence halls. "Some of the buildings where you will find ITS supported wireless include Herrick Library, Kanakadea, Seidlin (including the Annex), Myers, Allen Hall, Binns-Merrill, McMahon, Harder Hall (John Woods Studios, specifically), Scholes Library, Powell Campus Center, and Ade Dining Hall", says Wyant. Wyant also says that this upgrade was not the result of complaints from students. It was more of a natural progression. "There were no real complaints until last year - when wireless started to become a standard. The originally advertised wireless availability was actually done through IMacs in the Residence Halls, but this was not sufficient for a real wireless network". As is customary with the standard Internet service on campus, this service, too, will require that one register their service the very first time they sign on at a location. "The NetReg process has been implemented in these wireless areas you will need to register your wireless connection the first time you connect," explains Wyant. "This shouldn't be a problem, however, if you have connected to the wireless Internet in the Residence Halls before. Only new timers, connecting from a source other than a Residence Hall should have to register." Tahshauna Williams, a junior Communication Studies and Marketing double major, thinks that the new system has greatly improved from last semester. "I could only get service if I were in the Residence Halls before. I feel like I have a lot more freedom with this new system because now I can go anywhere," Williams says.