



Anna Gore, classroom support manager at UGA, sets up a lecture using the Sympodium interactive pen display.

Chemistry students excel with Sympodium

You can tell there's something different about the students in Dr. Richard Hubbard's lecture and lab classes at the University of Georgia (UGA) in Athens, Georgia. Their faces aren't buried in their notes, and they aren't frantically trying to keep up as the professor moves from one slide to the next.

Instead, they are attentively watching the screen at the front of the room as Hubbard conducts a lab lecture for a pre-medicine organic chemistry class. This change results from an important addition to the lecture hall – the Sympodium™ interactive pen display. Hubbard uses the display in place of an overhead projector. From his lectern he writes in digital ink on his lecture slides, which are projected onto a large screen at the front of the room.

"I use the Sympodium to teach all my classes," says Hubbard, who has had the product for three years. "I use the digital pen to freehand notes during class. Once we are finished for the day, I easily convert the notes into a PDF file and post them to the Web. Students find this extremely helpful. It eliminates the need to furiously scribble notes."

The ability to use digital ink was one of the main reasons instructional and information technology manager Joel Caughran decided to purchase the product for UGA's chemistry department. "We had some professors who were still using overhead projectors to teach how to solve organic chemistry problems," Caughran says. "They would have to rummage through previous projector sheets to illustrate their points, and some sheets would get lost. If they were using the rolls, the notes would get smudged. We saw the Sympodium as a good solution to this."

Caughran also found that professors who were using more current teaching tools, such as PowerPoint® software, were limited because they could not easily add notes to their prepared material. The Sympodium interactive pen display now enables them to do exactly that.

The Sympodium is also flexible, so professors at UGA can use many different types of resources in their lectures. "It simplifies the way that I deliver material," says Hubbard. "I paste full color pictures and graphs into slides and then mark them, using the pen to illustrate important points."

Hubbard teaches large classes that each have about 150 pre-medicine, pre-pharmacy and science majors. His material must suit the needs of students studying a variety of subjects. He also needs to reach a large audience effectively and reduce his preparation time. For Hubbard, the Sympodium interactive pen display solved all these issues. "I can make general templates for my students to print out beforehand, and then they jot my notes onto the templates during class. The Sympodium has increased the speed and volume of information that I can teach without sacrificing my students' ability to follow along and comprehend," he says.

Hubbard's remarks are echoed across the department. Caughran says, "Professors feel like their lectures are going further because students don't constantly have their faces in notebooks. They can pay attention and just write down important concepts, knowing they will get the notes later, when I post the PDF file on the Web."

Now almost every lecturer in the department is using the Sympodium interactive pen display, and Caughran is happy with the investment. "Because our resource dollars are limited, we have to be careful with them. I am quite pleased with how this investment has worked out."

SMART Profile University of Georgia

"Because our resource dollars are limited, we have to be careful with them. I am quite pleased with how this investment has worked out."

Joel Caughran,
instructional
and information
technology
manager

Public Relations
+1.403.802.2558

pr@smarttech.com
www.smarttech.com

Extraordinary made simple™

SMART