Advanced Classroom Technology Laboratory (ACT)

The Cingular Wireless Advanced Classroom Technology Laboratory (ACT) located in the Honors building was created as a laboratory to help faculty provide a means for teaching toward different learning and teaching styles, and promoting active, collaborative, and problem-based learning. The ACT classroom was created as a space where faculty and students could experiment with new instructional technologies and methodologies before they are introduced to the rest of the campus community. Goals for the new classroom include:

o   Increasing the marketable skills of students,
o   Encouraging student-to-students collaboration,
o   Accommodating variable student learning styles,
o   Providing opportunities for new pedagogical approaches, and
o   Serving as a way to record class discussions and preserve course material.

The main technology components installed in the ACT are the Walk and Talk teacher station, the Thunder digital projection display and collaboration product (a high end electronic flip chart), four LCD projectors, projection walls, 16 tablet PCs, and 4 plasma screens which can display the tablet PC screens, 6 iPods, recording equipments, and VHS/DVD and scanning capabilities. A Crestron control panel controls most of the computer related equipment. The room also has wireless and hard-wired networking, a storage closet for recording equipment and tablet PC charging, and wall controls for adjusting lighting and window shades.

The Walk and Talk Teacher Station
(Annotation on presentations, video tapes and DVDs, pull up plasma screens)
The Walk and Talk Teacher Station brings Tablet PC functionality to the teacher station. The station allows instructors to input information and control certain functions using a pen, a remote control (change slides, mouse functions, pen functions with practice), and the station's tablet PC. Faculty can use the pen to create annotations over the top of PowerPoint slides, among other things. Annotations can be saved for later reference. The Walk and Talk Teacher Station can display media from video tapes, DVDs, and the classroom document camera.

The Thunder system
(Electronic flip chart, annotate on DVD and scanned images)

The Thunder system behaves much like an electronic flip chart. You and draw on the screen with Thunder's electronic pen or use your finger. Pages that you create on the screen can then be posted on the walls of the classroom. Six pages can be displayed when the Thunder screen is in portrait mode and three pages when the Thunder screen is in landscape mode. Each page you create is auto-numbered and can be displayed, edited, saved and retrieved. Pages are saved in PDF format. Faculty can send these PDF files to students or post them on a web site for retrieval by students. Images from the classroom

scanner or DVD player (no audio) can be displayed on a Thunder page, and the faculty and students can use the pen to make annotations over the top of the imported media.

Plasma Screens and 16 Tablet PCs
Teachers can group their students around the 4 plasma screens in the room to work on problems, case, studies, etc. One of the students can hook up his/her tablet PC to the plasma display to facilitate group collaboration. The instructor can display any of the plasma screens through either the Walk and Talk central projector or the Thunder projectors.

Record Class Sessions
A camera and recording equipment installed in the room allows instructors to record class sessions for self study or for creating Podcasts for students to use in their review sessions.

Integrating the Walk and Talk Teacher Station and the Thunder System
Another benefit of the room is that it allows the Walk and Talk and Thunder Systems to be used together.