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A student operates the new technology available in the Homer Babbidge Library.

Homer Babbidge Library opens new video lab

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Posted: 10/28/08

A new video-editing lab has officially opened at the Homer Babbidge Library. These multimedia studios were created in large part due to Steven Park, manager of the Learning Resources Center, who served on the Learning Commons planning team.

Students can access this state-of-the-art technology lab Mondays through Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Fridays, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturdays, 2 p.m. to 9 p.m.

These multimedia studios came as a gift from the Class of 2007.

"We asked [them] for \$30,000 to build two post-production video editing suites," Park said. "Many students gave \$20.07 and that added up quickly."

Park hopes that many students will use the new technology.

"More and more instructors want to give video assignments," noted Park. "But it is a classic 'chicken or the egg' problem. Instructors cannot give video assignments to their students if there is no equipment or support on campus."

The video-editing equipment includes a Macbook Pro, 23" dual screens and JVC production monitor, DVD recorder, Sony video walkman, and a flatbed scanner. There are also numerous versions of various software programs like Microsoft Office, Adobe Photoshop CS2, Adobe Premier, Adobe Captivate 3, iLife 08, and Final Cut Studio 2.

The new technology is not only for those with technological experience and backgrounds.

"The Multimedia Studios are only open when there is someone there to assist you," Park said. "A Student Educational Technology Assistant (SETA) will unlock the door, conduct a brief interview with a new user, talk a little bit about copyright and then get [the student] started with the basics of how to use the equipment. We are interested in finding out which classes/instructors are giving video assignments and how we can best support them."

Justin Teague, a 7th-semester English major, works as a SETA. Teague said that, while the video editing

equipment is open to everyone, it should be used for "strictly academic" purposes. "It is not open for general usage."

However, it seems that not many people are aware that this new technology exists on the UConn campus. Teague reported that he has only seen "four or five groups of people sign in on the logs," although all who have used the equipment may not have signed in on the logs.

Ricky Hernandez, a 1st-semester business major, recently finished a video project for one of his classes, though he used a basic editing program, far less advanced than the ones found in the Multimedia studios.

"[The program I used] is not comprehensive enough. It really took forever to do simple tasks," he said. "[The final project] didn't look nearly as good as it would if I had used video software. Someone told me they had one in the library, and I had no clue there was one on campus."

Park encourages all students to use the equipment. "Many universities have high-end equipment just for fine arts majors or communications or journalism majors," said Park. "These suites are open to all UConn students."

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