

A few tips on exam survival

SARAH RATCHFORD
THE BRUNSWICKAN

Exam time is equated by many with headaches, fatigue, and a state of constant, sleepless worry. Stress, however, only makes the bad turn to worse, and to quote a line from John P. Kee, "trouble don't last always." The Brunswickan has spoken to both professors and students to pull together a few tips to make exams a little more bearable.

Associate Dean of UNB Graduate Studies and Professor of English Dr. Demetres Tryphonopoulos offers some common sense: "In my view, it's not what you do right before the exam, it's what you do throughout the year." He advises students to take good notes that will trigger memory while studying.

Many students, of course, simply do not do this. When asked what those students should do to redeem themselves in time for the exam, Tryphonopoulos wittily

responds "remember not to do that next time." He then becomes more serious, suggesting that troubled students should simply speak to their professors for advice. Building a good rapport with one's professor throughout the year, he says, can often save one in times of exam-related peril.

The UNB Math department issues tips on how to study for exams. Suggested is practice of old assignments, mainly those problems that were marked as incorrect. Copies of old exams are available for practice materials, either from the Math Help Centre, a professor, or from the Math website at www.math.unb.ca/math. It is advised that students pay close attention to the types of problems included, as well as the value of questions.

When students were asked for their views regarding exams, few of them waxed serious on the topic. Fourth-year student Patrick Wilson says simply to "show up. If you don't, you get an 'F'."

Aside from this very basic approach, third-year student Katie Balcom suggests "Lotsa candy. That's how I get through them." She

may be onto something, as staying properly nourished and eating lots of protein (not necessarily candy) will help the brain to accomplish more. If the brain is trying to retain information, it needs fuel to do so, so make time to eat.

In tune with this idea, fourth year English student Alex Wickwire says "stock food that's easy to make - microwave stuff." This will save time while ensuring sufficient nourishment.

Fourth-year Eric Letcher says wryly, "don't sleep through it." This is certainly advisable; for sleep-in prevention, the avoidance of all-nighters is suggested. Try to get at least five hours of shut-eye. If you need more time to study, get some sleep and wake up early with a fresher mind.

If you find yourself to be up the creek without a paddle, you should stock up on caffeine, clear off a nice big study space either at home or in the library, and cram until the exam is over. It won't be pleasant, but it's the best one can do in that situation. The worst will soon be over, and the ensuing celebration will be well worth it.

Mac'in the Christmas tree

DAVID SHIPLEY
SPECIAL TO THE BRUNS

Apple Inc.'s latest MacBook packs a whole lot of computing power in a sleek new package.

The most obvious change for Apple's popular laptops is in the looks department. The once white plastic-clad laptops are sleeker, thinner, lighter and tougher than their predecessors.

Crafted out of a single block of aluminum, the new MacBooks look and feel like their more expensive and larger cousins, the MacBook Pros, which also received a new design this fall.

While Apple has built a reputation for creating must-have gadgets, the Cupertino, California-based company has outdone itself with its latest consumer-level computer. Overall, the new MacBooks feel more pleasant to hold and comfortable to touch.

But the new design is about more than good looks - the new construction technique used to manufacture MacBooks has led to a case that's exceptionally strong and light. As well, the bottom of the new MacBook rarely gets hot, even under the most demanding circumstances such as playing a 3D game or doing video editing.

Aside from the new case, the MacBook's other most noticeable feature is its LED display screen, which is thinner and brighter than the LCD's found in the earlier models. The new LED screens on the MacBook's are also glossy, which can make the screen look crispier but can be annoying in bright, sunlit rooms or outdoors. For those who don't like glossy screens, a simple off-the-shelf matte screen cover can fix that issue.

Another important new feature of the new MacBooks is the large, multi-



Apple's updated MacBook is sure to be a big hit this holiday season.

touch trackpad. The trackpad on the MacBooks allows users to do finger swipes that can activate useful features within Mac OS X Leopard such as its window-switching program, Exposé. The trackpad also doesn't have a traditional button. Instead, the whole glass pad can be physically pushed.

A nice feature of the new trackpad is the ability to use the bottom right corner as a right click, cutting out the new for Mac users to do cumbersome key combinations along with clicks to access alternate menu functions.

The keyboard on the new MacBooks is similar to the black one introduced with the MacBook Air and a noticeable improvement over the previous generation. The keys are responsive and pleasant to use. The MacBook line also has a backlit keyboard on the more expensive 2.4 GHz model.

One of the most significant enhancements to the MacBook line is the introduction of Nvidia's latest mobile graphics chip - the 9400. The new graphics chip in the MacBook is a significant improvement from Intel chipset used in previous models. Unlike the Intel video chipset, the Nvidia 9400 has its own dedicated graphic processing unit. Like the Intel chipset, the Nvidia 9400 still uses system RAM. Nonetheless, the 9400 offers up to five times the speed of the Intel integrated graphics chip.

The MacBook performed adequately in a series of gaming tests ranging from a trial run of World of Warcraft in Mac OS X to a test of Battlefield 2 in Windows XP, which was installed through Apple's handy Bootcamp utility.

The new MacBooks also boast faster DDR3 ram and are available with either a 2.0 GHz or 2.4 GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor.

Upgrading the MacBook laptops is easier than ever thanks to some helpful design improvements. Both the hard drive and RAM on the

MacBook are relatively easy for users to remove and replace, which can help maximize its lifespan.

For those concerned about the environment and their health, the MacBook is one of the most progressive laptops on the market. Its aluminum shell is full recyclable and the move away from LCD technology to LED has helped Apple reduce the use of harmful chemicals in its laptops.

For those who've invested heavily in FireWire-based peripherals such as external hard drives or camcorders, the elimination of a FireWire port on the new aluminium MacBooks may be a deal breaker. Those who still want or need a FireWire port can buy the cheaper white MacBook, which still has the previous generation's plastic case or they can shell out a few hundred dollars more for the MacBook Pro.

Overall the new MacBooks represent one of the best computing options on the market for students, educators and even business professionals. They're light and durable and pack a great deal of value for their price. They also are the only computers that can run both Mac OS X and Windows either side by side via virtualization software or as boot options at start-up.

Mac OS X itself is arguably the most compelling reason to buy an Apple computer due to its stability, security and ease of use. Apple's iLife suite of apps, ranging from iPhoto to iMovie and Garageband, are perfect for creating and organizing digital media.

The new aluminum MacBooks are priced between \$1,349 and \$1,649 with Apple's education discount. The white MacBook can be purchased for \$1,099. Both the aluminum and white models are on display at the UNB Bookstore computer section. David Shipley is a web content developer for the University of New Brunswick and a freelance writer.

Gov't plans to replace Millenium program

FROM THRONE PAGE 1

that if they want to help the economy they need to first improve the education system. That's what the Student Union is looking for in the Speech from the Throne and the commitments for the next year."

Duncan Gallant, President of the New Brunswick Student Alliance, was in attendance for the Speech.

"We are pleased that the Government realizes that there are going to be students disadvantaged

by federal changes, but even before these changes and the current economic climate, students in New Brunswick were suffering from crippling debt," said Gallant in a statement released to the media. "We need to make sure that new, efficient student financial aid initiatives are included in the 2009 budget since this topic was ignored in the Government's Action Plan."

The NBSA has already taken steps to have their concerns addressed, as they are meeting with newly appointed Minister of

Post-Secondary Education Donald Arseneault today to outline their plans and concerns.

Chief among them is establishing a timeline for implementing the NBSA's student debt cap proposal. Because of the recommendations of the province's action plan it is somewhat unclear as to what body will be reporting to the government on post-secondary financial issues.

"We want to have a debt cap in the next provincial budget, and we need to figure out how to get there," said Gallant.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

Allan P. Stuart Award for Excellence in Teaching

Attention: STUDENTS, FACULTY AND ALUMNI

The Award: is dedicated to the late Dr. Allan P. Stuart and is to honour persons who are representative of outstanding teaching achievement at the University of New Brunswick.

Eligibility: A candidate will normally have taught a minimum of two 3-credit hour courses, or equivalent, during the calendar year in which the nomination is made. It is not expected that the nominees should excel in all criteria listed on the nomination, but they should be qualified in most categories. Individuals are not eligible if they have been previous recipients of the Award.

Nomination: Candidates for the Award are proposed and recommended to the Common Senates Teaching Awards Committee by students, faculty and alumni of the University.

The information required is contained on the Nomination Form, which is available from Teaching and Learning Services, Fredericton; the Vice-President (Saint John); the Student Council, Saint John or Fredericton; and Faculty Offices. No one may nominate or support more than one candidate. The form must be signed by two nominators and information should be supplied for each of the criteria listed. The Committee places little value on long lists of signatures supporting a nomination. However, further letters or paragraphs of support from a variety of sources (current and former students, faculty members, alumni, Department Chairs or Deans) can enhance a nomination.

Send nominations to Teaching and Learning Services, Eaton Multimedia Centre, Room 125 Marshall d=Avray Hall, UNB Fredericton, or the Vice-President (Saint John) Room 110 Oland Hall, UNB Saint John

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