Torline

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In recent years, Hanover College, like most other higher education institutions, found that universities were lagging behind in technology compared to secondary schools and even some elementary schools. In a reversal of the usual scheme of things, graduates of teacher preparation programs were entering classrooms full of technology like Promethean and Smart Boards, iPads, document cameras, and much more without any experience in using the same and in fact, some fear of these tools of 21st century learning. Much of the work of today’s teacher involves technology and technology requires funding. So while a technology plan was drafted by Dr. Adam Howard while he was on the faculty (2005 to 2008), progress was halted by budget cuts and a change in/shortage of staffing. At the same time, IT and Academic Computing also lost manpower to assist with training and planning, as well. Technology was high on the list of expertise needed for the last two education faculty searches. In August of 2010, Jonathan Dee was hired as an instructor, student teacher supervisor, and as Director of Teacher Education. He was not only good at incorporating feedback from the candidates and mentor teachers and principals but also had a strong working knowledge of the latest technology and trends. Mr. Dee spearheaded effort to plan a model classroom on the College campus; he visited New Tech high schools in Scottsburg, Indiana and in Palo Alto, California. The College embarked on a large scale fund-raising campaign called “Live Our Loyalty” which sought out alumni contributions. Mr. Donald Mount of Columbus, Indiana wanted to give a gift in memory of his wife. Though neither of them were teachers, many of Mrs. Mount’s family are educators. Mr. Mount donated a generous amount of $50,000 specifically to create a model classroom in Newby Hall that would house state-of-the-art instructional technologies. Mr. Dee worked with Vice President of Academic Affairs Steve Jobe, and Program Assistant, Cheryl Torline developed a budget and design for a model classroom and upgrade of Newby’s computer lab. Renovation began in July 2012. Currently two classrooms are equipped with Promethean boards. Three Newby Hall main floor rooms are renovated for candidate use. The upgrade included:

* A little-used library would be renovated to house a technology lab and resource center. The lab would boast two upgraded PC’s and a MacIntosh computer, as well as printing capabilities for students. A large, flat screen display that could be linked to laptops and tablets, as well as comfortable and well-designed furniture encouraged student and faculty collaborations. A plan was made to allow the Physical Plant to get the building and electrical upgrades done in the summer of 2012. Some additional funds were found by the Dean, so that new paint and carpeting could also be done at the same time for the rooms adjacent to the lab and classroom.
* A classroom of iPads would be purchased so to replicate the many schools that are issuing tablets to all students. A Hanover College electrician ran electrical wiring into the closet and installed four simple power strips on the wall so that all iPads could be plugged in at once. A campus carpenter constructed individual vertical slatted shelves, to help protect technology.
* Cabinets and sink were installed in the model classroom to accommodate Professor Hanson’s hands-on approach to teaching science methods courses.
* Hanover grad Alex Whitley ‘08 was the representative from Empower Learning who worked with the College Instructional Technology Department to get the Promethean Board installed. Alex included two sessions of training with faculty and staff, so far. The department also hired Madison Consolidated Schools Technology Director, Lisa Cutshall, to provide training on both Promethean and iPads.

Faculty and staff worked hard to ensure all looked perfect for the Dedication held on September 6, 2012, the day of Fall Convocation. A plaque was installed and President DeWine did the unveiling with Mr. Mount and many of the Susnick/ Mount family members in attendance. Several speakers, including President DeWine, Dean Steve Jobe, and Assistant Superintendent of Scott County School District 2 Marc Slaton ’94 all spoke about the difference this kind of resource would make for new teachers. Emily Boyd ’13 demonstrated the Promethean and several other students demonstrated other items. Mr. Mount noted that when he returned from World War II as a wounded veteran, Hanover College did whatever was necessary for him to complete his education, and he had a very successful career in the Defense industry. He was happy to be able to give back, honor his wife, and provide for the future with one gift. Funds from the original gift were able to also purchase a second Promethean Board for Room 9 in November of 2012, and we are planning several additional improvements. Professional development sessions with Alex Whitley will continue in Fall 2013