

Students soak up iPhone technology

Dramatic increase in demand for phone programmers has students clamoring for job skills

By Wendy Gillis

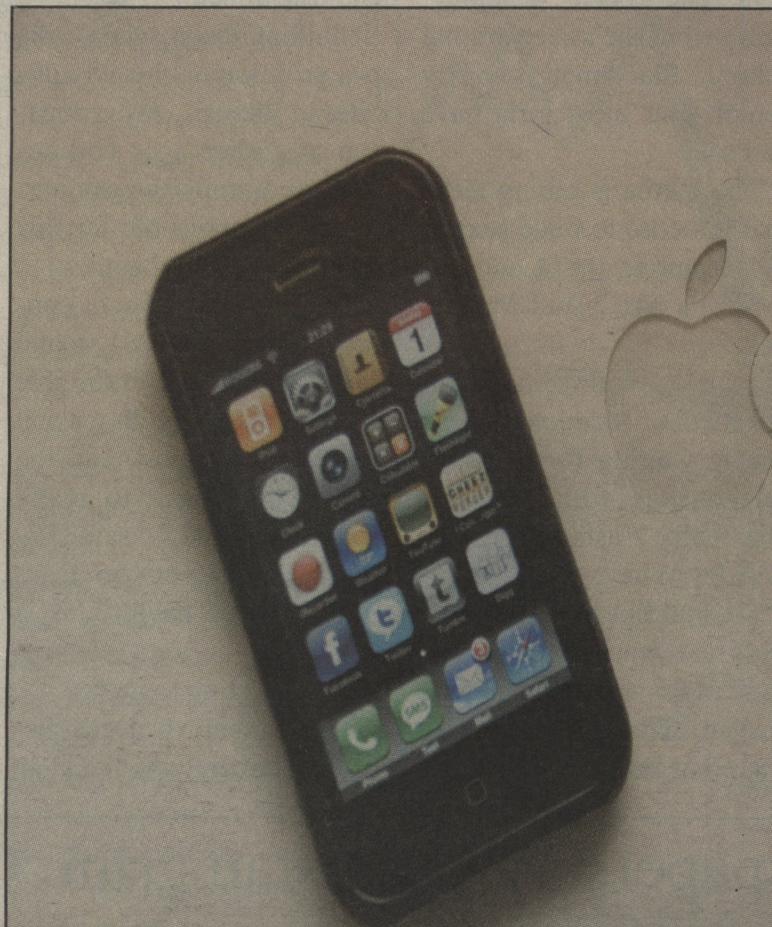
CUP Central Bureau Chief

SASKATOON (CUP) — With things like lolcats, Spanish lessons, Facebook, and the Ralph Lauren collection, it would seem that every potential iPhone application has already been dreamed up.

But, a group of students and iPhone enthusiasts at the University of Saskatchewan are learning skills that could lead to the creation of even more programs for the popular Apple gadget.

Canada's only iPhone and iPod Touch workshops and panel discussions, called iPhone U, are teaching necessary skills to design, write, and market potential applications — and the knowledge could not come at a better time.

Despite the slumping economy causing a slight decline



in the need for computer programmers, demand for iPhone-savvy programmers has surged by 500 per cent, according to a recent study by the online outsourcing

firm, oDesk.

Dozens of potential programmers are clamoring to gain the knowledge, says Eric Neufeld, head of the Computer Science Depart-

ment at the U of S, workshop organizer.

Seats for February's two workshops were filled within hours of registration opening. Two more have been scheduled for late March.

Over the two-day workshops, students will gain the skills to build three or four basic applications for the iPhone or iPod Touch, including a simple browser, a photo display, and a list mechanism. Participants must be familiar with basic computer programming languages, such as Objective C and Javascript.

The idea for the workshops arose when a group of students, faculty, and one former Apple employee — collectively calling themselves the Apple Corps — started getting together every Friday morning, attempting to learn the science behind the new technology.

"It really shows off the agil-

ity of a computer science degree," said Neufeld.

"Once you have the basic knowledge, it takes relatively little effort to learn the new technologies, no matter how exotic."

Johannes Lindenbaum, a computer science undergraduate student, was among the future programmers, having taken in both sessions last month.

Also an employee at an online computer programming agency, Lindenbaum says having phone programming skills is an asset to both his studies and his work.

"I have been looking to get more into the iPhone programming, and it was a great way to meet people in the industry," he said.

Lindenbaum says he is planning to attend the second workshop in March, which will offer more advanced training.

Computer snag leaks Ryerson students' private information

By CUP

TORONTO (CUP) — A "weird software glitch" accidentally exposed the private information of at least 588 students, said Ryerson University's privacy co-ordinator, Heather Driscoll. At a press conference on Feb. 23, Driscoll assured journalists that Toronto's Ryerson University fixed the breach by installing a patch to correct the software problem.

They have also contracted the services of Ernst and Young — a professional services firm — to help test the new patch and investigate what happened in the system.

After notifying the community through a media release, Driscoll said that Ryerson had retained the services of Ipsos Reid — a marketing research firm — to investigate how many more students may have had their informa-

tion exposed.

Driscoll would also not comment about how much it cost Ryerson to contract the services of Ernst and Young and Ipsos Reid, and could not give an estimate of how much Ryerson would be willing to spend during this process.

The media release was sent out through a national press release distributor, but not through student and faculty listservs.

Hamza Quresh, a second-year aerospace engineering student only heard about the security breach through reading an article in the Toronto Star.

"How can we trust Ryerson in the future when they don't have the sufficient controls to stop people hacking into our personal accounts?" he asked.

Gail Alivio, president of the Continuing Education Students' Association of Ryerson,

says the administration made no attempt to contact her or other elected representatives at CESAR.

"I read about this breach from the newspaper like all other students," she said.

"We had a class representative meeting on Thursday, Feb. 26, and many of our reps had questions about the security breach," she added. "We had nothing to tell our members. This is pretty disappointing."