Verizon Scholars: chosen for an interest in learning basic and more advanced use of technology in order to enhance their education.

You will receive a Dell Inspiron laptop (specs below) on the first day of orientation.

The laptop belongs to the College, and will be serviced by the College for your entire first year if there are any problems. The laptop and any servicing of hardware or software will be completely free to you.

You will attend and receive an IT (technology) orientation session during orientation, and will attend at least one session during the first quarter of classes (before fall break.)

Every student must take a First-Year Seminar course lasting 7 weeks (for half a semester, known as a “quarter”) during each semester in her or his first year. As your first-semester seminar, you must take the course “Energy” (with me, Dr. Sheldon) in the second quarter, starting after fall break. This course will focus on the use of technology to enhance your education, but will be on the academic topic of energy as described in the course description:

Course Description: “In physical science, “energy is always conserved,” but in society, we talk about “conserving energy.” What is energy? What is an “energy crisis”? How is energy produced and used, and what changes are we poised to make? This course will have an emphasis on learning to use computer technology to benefit your work in all your classes.”

Note: during the second semester, you will take another First-Year Seminar, and you can take whatever you want.

During the Fourth Quarter (after spring break), you will take a 1 credit class, “Academic Technology,” meeting for 2 hours per week, with me. This class does not have a specific academic focus, but will focus on using the computer in the other classes you are taking, and will help you start your electronic portfolio. This 1 credit class is simply in addition to whatever other classes you are taking.

You will be asked to fill out a survey of your use of technology during each of your four years at the College.

If you successfully complete the “Energy” and the “Academic Technology” class, and you plan to return to Randolph for your second year of College, the ownership of the laptop will revert to you at the end of the first year. After your first year, the College will still be able to help you with computer problems, but you will be financially responsible for any repairs necessary. If you lose or maliciously damage the computer at any time, you are responsible for its replacement.

The new laptop you receive will have Microsoft Office Professional, and various other useful software packages on it. You can also install anything else you want. It comes in a protective laptop sleeve. It is an Inspiron 1545, with Intel Pentium Dual Core T4200 2GHz, 3Gb memory, glossy 15.6 inch widescreen. It has a 250 Gb harddrive. It has the Windows Vista Home Edition operating system. It is wireless internet ready for the campus-wide wireless internet.

The cost of this program is underwritten by Verizon.