

Apple Bytes

The Newsletter of the Lynchburg Apple Core

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April Meeting

Thursday April 21 - 7:00 PM - Lynchburg College

General meeting is at Lynchburg College, Thursday, April 21, 7:00 PM.

The April regular meeting will be at Lynchburg College, room 17 in Hopwood Hall. It will begin with a general discussion and Q&A session at 7:00 p.m. followed by the featured presentation.

The agenda has been changed to bring you an overview presentation Apple's new iWork '05. Frank Land will discuss Apple's latest software offering which is considered a significant development that should be reviewed and looked at closely. Frank will hit the high points of these two programs comprising iWork '05 and compare them with his experiences in word processing and presentation programs.



Got ideas? iWork '05 brings them to life with Keynote 2 — offering cinema-quality presentations for everyone — and Pages — a word processor with an incredible sense of style.

Pages

Pages is a streamlined yet powerful word processor that lets you create everything from letters to newsletters to brochures, envelopes, etc.

Keynote set the standard for stunning presentations – now **Keynote 2** lets you build photography portfolios, animated storyboards and self-running, interactive slideshows.

With its built-in **iLife** Media Browser, Apple says that **iWork** is the perfect complement to **iLife**.

“Why I’d consider buying this new word processor and presentation program!” by Frank Land

Most of us use our computers for a multitude of things. For you, it may be to surf the internet and write emails, or as a depository to collect, store and view your digital photographs. Or, it may be a way to assemble and play back your music. Since desktop computers became popular, a lot of people have found them to be quite handy for some form of “word processing.”

Admittedly, not a big (or even small) fan of word processors, Frank has been taking a good look at **Pages** with the hint of discontinuing using his high-end publishing programs like InDesign and Quark Xpress as his “word processors of choice” and switching to **iWork ‘05**.

In his words, *“To me, most word processors try to think for me, anticipate what I want and automatically execute commands, and that turns me off. It comes from being a ‘control person.’ When I use a publishing program, I’m totally in control of what goes on regarding type, layout, etc. My first impression of Word and even AppleWorks was that they were written for people who don’t learn much about their software and need constant reminders with the program jumping ahead thinking for them. That irritated me considerably.”*

“Look at what I’ve done!”

Having been in the publishing end of communications, Frank still shudders when he hears the words desktop publishing, *“My image is that of one of our middle-managers coming to me very proud of his two-page newsletter that made me resist the temptation to put my finger in my mouth and gag. When I realized that he had spent hours coming up with the layout and clip art and how bad the result was, I felt like it depreciated what I did for a living.”*

Aside, Frank will tell you that he also rued the day that TrueType was introduced as he could no longer scare them off by telling them, *“You don’t have postscript.”* Typefaces had become available to everyone.

Templates – “I used to hate them!”

Another item that turned him off was templates. “It seemed like you were getting ahead of yourself in the creative process. As long as I can save what I create, that will usually serve as my template for the next document like it.”

”If I were still on the job, today’s software may have been my “worst nightmare.” That person would probably now be back flaunting his work to me and I’d have to admit it wasn’t that bad.

Pages goes a step beyond with templates. For one thing, a lot of the layouts look pretty good and they can be easily manipulated to customize them. While it is advertised that there are some 40 beautiful templates, if you snoop around you’ll find out that there are

many pages within some of those templates. Add them up, and you'll see that there are really 141 page layouts in 40 categories. If you're doing a newsletter, for example, there can be anywhere from 6 to 10 different page layouts for a particular newsletter template. That's quite a head-start for someone willing to work from furnished pages and still be creative. Otherwise, eventually a lot of people will be presenting the same look.

You can do it their way – or your way

A good thing about **Pages** is it's very easy to manipulate what they give you and adapt to something quite different. If you're into using Styles for type, they are convenient and easy to use. Or, if you prefer to tweak your layout with kerning and all of that stuff, you can have complete control of your words.

When it comes to dealing with documents and words, it's what you're used to. *“For me, I like to write without having to think about program commands (just memorize the key strokes) and then maybe getting started on a semblance of a layout to see how it works. It doesn't bother me whether I use a high-end publishing program or Text Edit. The important thing is in writing you want to avoid having to think about computer mechanics and concentrate on the words. It's easy to do that with Pages.”*

All of this iStuff works well together

A key feature that should make anyone working in the **iLife** environment consider both of these new programs is how easy and how convenient it is to add photos, art, music and movies to your documents. In this respect, both **Pages** and **Keynote 2** work hand-in-hand with **iPhoto**, **iTunes** and **iMovie**. Drag and drop from the Media Browser is a no-brainer.

In reading the early reviews on this software, you'll find that some of the computer nerds feel that **Pages** has a way to go before it catches up with existing word processors. The Mac Addict reviewer said, *“iWork may one day become a powerful productivity suite to replace AppleWorks and Microsoft Office – but that's a long way off. In the meantime we're please as punch with Keynote 2 and looking forward to an update to Pages.”*

Note: an update has already been released.

That's probably true. Word certainly took a long time. **Pages** is a newcomer and like most, a little wet behind the ears, so to say. What you can count on, though, is that Apple is solidly behind this software and will continue to improve it beyond the first generation.

One thing you have to understand is that **Pages** is not going to do everything for everyone. If you are into preparing information on your Mac to print on your printer, it looks pretty darn good already. But, if you plan on sending your job to a printer, it's not a publishing program. Color separations and trapping are not even in the Index.

It comes down to what your needs are. If you have already been using Word or AppleWorks, you are probably set....that is until MS decides to quit supporting Apple, or Apple finally gets everyone into OS X and quits updating AW.

Keynote 2

As far as presentation programs go, Frank admits that he thought that was behind him when he retired from First Colony after having prepared multitudes of Persuasion and Power Point slide shows. Since, he has launched into video editing with iMovie and started using iPhoto to show off his digital photos to willing audiences.

“In my opinion, **Keynote 2** is a logical extension of the slide show in iPhoto when you want a little more, but don’t need all the capabilities (and large file sizes) of iMovie. It has tremendous flexibility in adding transitions, animations, photos and movies and music to produce cinema-quality presentations.

You don’t really need to be in the speaking business to find a lot of uses for **Keynote 2** ...you just need something to show people whether it’s your family at home or a larger audience. Starting from scratch the night iWork was installed, Frank was able to produce a multi-media presentation (photos, movies and music) show on a luau in Hawaii in a matter of a couple of hours. *“It was very easy to use and intuitive.”*

Unlike some of Apple’s offerings in recent years, there are excellent “printed” User Guides on each of the new programs as well as PDF versions for reading on screen.

Whether you are into OS X or not, you will find this program on Apple’s newest offerings in extremely easy-to-use software worth the time it will take to investigate.

And, for just \$79, (that’s just \$40 apiece), **iWork ‘05** brings productivity to life with this one-two creative duo. – Frank Land

May Meeting(s)

Westminster-Canterbury - Tuesday May 17, 7:15 PM
Lynchburg College, Room 17, Hopwood Hall - Thursday May 19, - 7:00 PM
Effective in April, there will be no further meetings in Amherst
due to lack of interest

Future Meeting Dates and Topics

Here is a listing of future meeting dates and the topics currently selected. Note that all the meetings are the Third Thursday of every month. Topics can change. Check your latest Apple Bytes or the LAC website.

May 19	Managing photos with iPhoto
June 16	First Hands-on OS X 10.4 “Tiger”
July 21	Spreadsheets (Excel, Appleworks)
August 18	iMovie & iDVD
September 15	Protecting your computer privacy

October 20	Build a Website
November 17	3rd Annual Dinner at Oakwood Country Club
December 15	Advanced Word Processing
January 19	Managing e-Mail

Managing your Photos with iPhoto

The program topic for the General Meeting in May will be managing your digital photos using iPhoto. The current version of iPhoto has some very nice features added to those of the earlier versions. Gordon Mattox will demonstrate the latest version of iPhoto and show how it can be used to catalog, sort, display, and organize many thousands of photos. It also has other very fine features, including allowing you to order special albums automatically from iPhoto.

Tips and Tricks

Here is a tip on Epson printers from Ron Merkal – Thanks, Ron.

“I found this under Reunion’s Q/A concerning the ability of OS X to show the Epson ink levels. I tried it out and it works! Make sure your Epson printer is turned on. Open the Print Center utility in the Utilities folder within your application folder. Select the Epson printer and click Configure . This will open the Epson Printer Utility application. From the printer list there, double-click on the item in the list showing your printer. This will open a window for checking things related to your specific printer. The first option, ‘Epson Status Monitor,’ will show you the amount of ink remaining in the printer. I found that my OS 10.3.3 varies somewhat from the above, but I think you can also figure it out.” Ed note: This is also similarly available in OS 9. - GCM

Mac OS X Class held at CVCC was a “Full House”

The CVCC Mac OS X, class sponsored by The Lynchburg Apple Core covered both Version 10.2 Jaguar and Version 10.3 Panther. It was a great success with 14 enrolled. Gordon Mattox was the instructor. The next class is scheduled for October.

Apple Bytes, the monthly newsletter of the Lynchburg Apple Core is delivered via e-mail and is available as a downloadable PDF at <http://www.lynchburgapplecore.org>. Please send your comments and questions to Program Chairman & Newsletter Editor Tom Johnson at graystranger@earthlink.net, or President Gordon Mattox at gcmattox@mac.com