



May 16, 2009

NKU gets iPhone app

*By Howard McEwen
Enquirer contributor*

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS - Northern Kentucky University freshmen might have less chance of getting lost on campus this year. iNKU, an application for Apple's iPhone and iPod Touch, will have a campus map that uses the devices' GPS feature.

"If you have an iPhone it will show your current location on campus and can be used to find the way to your next class, the student union or campus event," said Chris Rider, senior technology architect for the Infrastructure Management Institute (IMI) in the NKU College of Informatics.

"The GPS capability has an accuracy of three to four feet."

iNKU will also feature a glossary of NKU terms, campus trivia and the NKU fight song. It is available for download from iTunes.

"We wanted to create a fun application to take advantage of the iPhone's technical capabilities such as the GPS and the accelerometer," said Rider.

The accelerometer is used when students shake the device to control trivia questions, glossary terms and sound effects.

"This will serve as a foundation for future releases of the application," said Rider.

The fight song was provided by the NKU Music Department.

"The fight song plays and displays the lyrics," said Rider. "A basketball 'bounces' to the words in the lyrics as the music plays."

Glossary and trivia entries include: "Dry Campus: What NKU is. Students aren't allowed to have alcohol anywhere on campus. Good to know, right?" "Clock Building: Lucas Administrative Center," "Clooney, George: Studied broadcast journalism at NKU. Not currently located on campus."

Future additional features will be released by the Infrastructure Management Institute in the College of Informatics.

"We are planning on providing NKU students with the tools to access university resources," said Rider.

For Rider it was a learning experience.

"It was created on a part-time schedule to assist learning the iPhone platform. We are using what we learned from this project to create other applications," he said.
