Collecting Digital Images and Data

Collaboration

Communication

Integration

Image Annotation

Sharing Information

Using Tablet PCs in Field and Clinical Settings

Challenges of Teaching in Field and Clinical Situations

- In many instances, it is difficult for *all* students to see objects, phenomena, or procedures which a professor is describing.
- Students frequently work in small groups, with each group conducting their work at different locations. Groups are usually only able to *verbally* share their observations and data while in a field or clinical setting.
- Compilation and analysis of data typically must wait until a class returns to campus.

Using Tablet-PCs and Associated Technology to Improve Learning in Field and Clinical Settings

- The professor and/or student groups record their observations and collect data using the appropriate technology (e.g., digital camera, global positioning system, data logger, physiological sensors).
- Images and/or data are downloaded to the professor's and students' tablet-PCs while in the field.
- Images and data are shared among all tablet-PCs, using an ad-hoc wireless system contained within the tablet-PCs, while in the field or clinic.
- While still in the field or clinical setting, important parts of images can be annotated while explained by the professor and discussed by students, with annotations appearing on all the tablet-PCs.
- Data can be analyzed and the results discussed, annotated, and shared while in the field.

Conclusions

- Tablet PCs and associated technology can change field and clinical settings from places of observation to true learning environments in which observation, analysis, evaluation, and discussion occur among all students.
- Students learn more because of more effective sharing and in-depth exploration of information while in the field or clinical setting.

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Tablet PCs in Field and Clinical Settings

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Tablet Webpage